

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

STATE AID IN VICTORIA.

THE *Argus* of Melbourne, of the date of July 6, contains a report of the debate in the Legislative Council of Victoria, by which the second reading of the Bill for the Abolition of State-Aid was preceded. That colonial House of Lords (if we may presume to indicate its temper as well as its functions, by applying to it the title of an assembly with which we in this country are tolerably familiar) has at length, by the absolute majority required for the purpose by the Constitution Act, assented to the principle of the Government measure. Five times successively the Legislative Assembly, by overwhelming majorities, had passed a Bill to abolish State Aid for the advancement of the Christian religion; but up to July last its will had been overruled by the Council. It is quite clear from the tenor of the debate that the same fate would have happened to the present measure, if, like their prototypes of the United Kingdom, the uncoroneted peerage of Victoria had not felt themselves obliged "to let 'I dare not' wait upon, I would." Expediency, however, seems to have prevailed upon the House to give way, and the Bill was carried by 18 to 7 votes.

Some of our readers will remember the passing of the Constitution Act for the Australian colonies through our own Legislature, under the guidance of Lord John Russell, the Colonial Secretary of the Aberdeen Administration, some fourteen years ago. In making those colonies masters of their own political freedom, it not only made provision for throwing fresh security around the politico-ecclesiastical institution known by the name of State-aid, but it greatly augmented the sum which it authorised the Colonial Parliament to vote for this purpose. In Victoria, we believe, the grant "for the advancement of the Christian religion," was originally 6,000*l*. After the Constitution Act was put into force, the grant was first raised to 30,000*l*, and eventually to 50,000*l*, the extreme amount allowed by that fundamental pact. From the first, however, the churches of the Congregational order—Independents and Baptists—have declined participation in this State endowment, and have, of course, made strenuous efforts to put an end to it. The State-aid Abolition party has been not only very active, but very successful, and "concurrent endowment" fell into disfavour with a majority of the electors. Five times, as we have already said,

the representative House of legislation condemned the State-aid system, and we are at a loss to account for this if, as Mr. O'Shanassy insinuated, the great mass of the people of the colony were either indifferent or opposed to the Bill. At any rate, we take it for granted that long before now the Bill has passed through Committee, and that it will receive the sanction of Her Majesty in Council.

We have read the debate on the second reading with much interest. It does not touch the merits of the principle involved in the measure more than occasionally, and, we may add, exceptionally, but it is none the less valuable to Dissenters at home, for all that. It is even more so. We are tolerably familiar with all that can be said in favour of, or against, the abstract principle of the Rate-aid system, and on this view of the question could hardly expect anything new. But where, as in the present instance, the proposer of the Bill, Mr. T. T. A'Beckett, was, not many months back, a staunch defender of the system he sought to abolish, and Mr. O'Shanassy, who led the opposition, had himself, in 1857, advocated the abolition of State-aid within two years, it may be assumed for certain that the discussion would hang mainly upon local circumstances. Two facts stand prominently out of the allegations and admissions contained in the generally adverse speeches of the members of the Council—the first, that the Council accepted the measure in principle with the utmost reluctance: the second, that very considerable tenderness has been displayed by the promoters of the Bill towards vested, or quasi-vested interests. The Act is not intended to take effect till five years after the present Session have elapsed, and the lands which have been held by the various religious denominations, have been unconditionally made over to them. These terms are the most liberal ever offered to the recipients of the grant. The matter of astonishment is, not that they were accepted by the subsidised denominations, but that they were offered by the Colonial Government. There was wisdom in this liberality. The growth of the population alone will speedily suffice to extinguish all traces of the State's participation in these insignificant endowments, while the objectionable system itself will die an easy death.

One after another those large groups of English-speaking colonies, which are destined before very long to become independent empires, are deliberately casting off from themselves the fetters which at once bind and enervate their religious institutions. If the assistance of the State, distributed, as far as possible, on the principle of religious equality, could find a ground of justification and a plea of necessity, it would be in newly-peopled countries, where large districts are thinly populated, and where social organisation is necessarily imperfect. Yet the example of the United States of America shows that, as regards provision for the spiritual need of men, the voluntary system is more successful than the compulsory. Our colonies confirm the truth thus taught. They see more embarrassment than aid in State contributions for religious purposes, and they act accordingly. The Churches of England and of Scotland will soon become the sole surviving specimens of the repudiated system of politico-ecclesiastical establishments. But they cannot long stand alone

in their opposition to the common sense and the enlightened conscience of Protestant communities. When every collateral support to the vicious system has been swept away, and every cover to the fortress of Erastianism has been levelled to the earth, public opinion, with unbroken force, will tell with cumulative force upon what remains of the beleaguered system, and, with whatever reluctance, and at whatever temporary inconvenience, it will have to succumb. That it will offer a stout resistance, we can entertain no doubt—that it will eventually be superseded by a more natural, a more defensible, because a more essentially Christian, economy, we have no doubt whatever.

The event on which we have been commenting may be surveyed in connection with the notice of motion given by the junior Member for Bradford for next Session. Modern history, all over the world, is familiarising the minds of Englishmen with the conclusion that the Christian faith, if it is to live at all, must live by exclusively Christian methods. It is in the day of the power of the Son of Man that His people will be made willing. God's revelation of love to man through Christ is a spiritual revelation, adapted to spiritual ends, and incapable of being permanently aided, save by spiritual means. National agencies are not fitted to do the work of individual transformation. In our own country their failure has been conspicuous. In our colonies they have been cast aside as worse than useless. Many obstacles have yet to be removed before Great Britain shall be as ecclesiastically free as her children beyond the seas; but if we have faith in the vitality of Divine truth, it will be competent for us to remove mountains of traditional obstruction. The greater part of the work has already been accomplished. Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and the Australasian colonies, have set free their churches from State connection and interference. The space around the citadel is cleared. With a good heart, and with the full assurance of hope, let us march up to the citadel itself, and, God helping us, it will be delivered into our hands.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

We copy, in another column, an article from the *Times* upon the fourth and last report of the Ritual Commissioners. It will be remembered that this Commission was established some three years ago with the view of revising the Services of the Established Church, or, rather, with the view of examining the Services, and reporting thereon to Her Majesty, i.e., to the two Houses of Parliament. Having every reason to believe that the Commissioners have laboured long and steadily at their work, it is a pity to know that their time is now proved to have been spent to little purpose. It is to be imagined that one object of their appointment was to ascertain whether the Church could be made a little more popular, and her Services a little less wearisome and slightly more acceptable to the common people. The work is over, and nothing has been recommended and nothing has been done which will have the slightest tendency in that direction. The last report is nothing but muddle. There was scarcely a question upon which the Commissioners were in the least agreed. Such recommendations as there are, are made nugatory by expressions of dissent, while the report as a whole is expected to be rejected by seventeen out of twenty-four members. Perhaps little else should have been expected; in-

deed, what else could have been expected? What was required was a comprehensive measure of reform, which should go too far rather than not far enough, and the most Conservative class in the kingdom—Church dignitaries—were set to work to frame it. The result is something like a *fasco*. If the Church wants her Services really adapted to times, she should appoint a Ritual Commission of mechanics, artisans and farm-labourers,—not of bishops and deans.

Another Commission is now virtually excommunicated by a certain section of Churchmen. The Rev. J. W. Burgon, a gentleman who performs the work of principal correspondent to the *Guardian*, announces that it must be "plain to everybody" that whatever the Bible Revision Commission may do, there is not the remotest chance that the result of their labours will be favourably received by the community. Mr. Burgon does not particularly resent the presence of the Unitarian: he says that the mischief "lies far deeper." Very well; where does it lie? Who could doubt? Whoever has doubted? Here,—"I venture to add that it will be found absolutely necessary that the Convocations of both provinces should appoint *Churchmen* to do the Church's work, if it be sincerely desired that a revised version of the Book of Life shall prove acceptable to the great body of English and American Churchmen." Really there must be some radical difference between Churchmen and other people, beginning at the birth and ending only at the grave. It is not very perceptible, but its results are clear enough. They have been singled out for the patronage and esteem of every libidinous monarch, and now we are virtually told that they, and they alone, can translate a passage of Scripture. We lift our wondering eyes and ask all sorts of questions of Madame How and Lady Why and—get no answer. We hope, however, by-and-bye to ascertain whether it is a fixed ordinance of Nature that Episcopalians, and Episcopalians alone, should be privileged to do, to have and to enjoy.

"Altars open to all sects, a Bible manipulated by Unitarians—what more can be devised?" This is the exclamation of the injured Rev. T. T. Carter writing to the *Guardian*, who threatens that, if matters do not improve, the end will have to come. In this way. "If all Church authority, as now administered, fail us, men who have been steadfastly opposed to disestablishment will come to feel that the only chance of vindicating the distinctiveness of Church principles is to be sought, at all risks, in severing that connection with the State, and surrendering those external privileges, which have become the one ground of the claims which paralyse all discipline, and jeopard all truth."

"Paralyse all discipline, and jeopard all truth!" We think we wrote these words some quarter of a century ago, as descriptive of the necessary effects of an Established Church. We are glad that Mr. Carter has adopted them.

Some members of the Church in the diocese of Winchester are memorialising the bishop regarding the spread of ritualistic practices in the diocese. The memorialists recite the doctrines and practices of this party, and go on to declare, "that for any clergyman to hold and preach such doctrines and practices while continuing to minister in the Church, and to profit by her emoluments, is a manifest violation of the ordination vow." Perhaps it is so, but there are those who think that the Evangelicals are equally guilty in this respect. Suppose that every party in the Church should be proved to be guilty?

The Wesleyans—following the example of the Church—are bestirring themselves to increase the number of day-schools in connection with the Methodist denomination—so surely does sectarianism breed sectarianism. The Education Committee of the body have addressed a circular upon the subject to the superintendents of circuit. The circular says:—

It may be supposed by some, whose sympathies lie rather in the direction of a purely national system, that the establishment of additional denominational schools will tend to commit the Connexion, and to increase thereby the power of denominational educationists in any future discussion of the general question. But it must be borne in mind that any such increase in the number of Wesleyan schools, whilst it will not by any means determine the policy of the Connexion in any future emergency, will greatly add to its influence, whatever the programme which it may then adopt. On the other hand, any diminution of the comparative educational strength of Methodism would be a serious loss to itself and by no means a gain to the country. The eagerness with which other denominational societies are exerting themselves to occupy the ground before any Government inquiry can take place, should at once provoke the Methodist societies to emulation of their zeal, and convince them of the necessity for immediate action.

We do not see how the last sentence necessarily follows what has gone before. If "other denomina-

tional societies" are eagerly sectarian, is that a reason why we should be equally sectarian? We should have thought that reason would go the other way?

Mr. Sen, otherwise called Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, has delivered his farewell sermon and address before returning to the East Indies. It would seem that he has enjoyed himself much since he has been in England, and of course, all the English people will be grateful to him for the freedom with which he has commented upon their manners, habits, doctrines, &c. Mr. Sen, indeed, has lately shown a profound belief in himself, and it is to be doubted whether the attention that has been paid to him has done him much good.

THE PROGRESS OF RITUALISM.

A splendid service took place in All Saints' Church, Lambeth, on Wednesday night, in celebration of the nativity of the Virgin Mary. An imitation of the Romanist hymn "Ave Maria" was sung, and the church was ablaze with candles and glittering vestments. The procession was composed of officiating priests, members of the various guilds of brotherhood, and choristers, numbering altogether about 200. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Thomas Hogo, who said:—The Eastern and Western Churches were disunited for no really good or valid reason, and no one could believe that the Spirit of God moved them to differ. The Reformation of England was the act of greedy courtiers and of a corrupt and tyrannical King. The characters of the leading reformers would not bear investigation; indeed, many of them were so base that straightforward men turned away from them with loathing. The history of the Reformation was a tissue of foulness and baseness, and who could think that God had blessed such a movement, which was the work of evil men? The treatises of the mediæval ages were full of Gospel truths, but now men were left to believe what they liked, or, if it pleased them, nothing at all. Those who called the mediæval times days of darkness knew not what they were talking of, for in those days there was much Christian light and men were told the truth. They must have Catholicity, and hold the same vital doctrines. The Romish and English Churches used the same creeds, and held many of the same doctrines. He looked forward to the time when the three great Christian churches should be united together in one body. During the service there were several slight manifestations of disapprobation by hisses in several parts of the church, and from the outside one or two large stones came through the window, scattering the fragments of glass upon some of the people.

On the same night there was a special service of an extraordinary and imposing character at St. Alban's, Holborn, on which occasion three young women were admitted to the Sisterhood of the Guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and took the veil of the order. The service commenced at nine o'clock, and was not concluded till nearly half-past ten. At the commencement a procession of young women, numbering about eighty, all dressed in white veils and blue sashes, and preceded by a banner, issued from the left side of the chancel, singing a processional hymn, "The Pilgrims of the Night." Following them were the choir and officiating clergy. The procession wended its way down the left aisle and up the centre, after which all took their respective places, and the service for the occasion commenced. The evening being also the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, the rules of the order were read over, and all renewed their vows. Among the rules to be observed were the receiving of the Communion once a month, confession, chastity, and obedience. The sermon was preached by Mr. Mackonochie, who took for his text the second verse of the second chapter of Solomon's song, "As a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters." He said that the lily there spoken of was the small, modest lily only to be found in the quiet and shady places of the wood, and not the larger and more gaudy lily oftentimes, perhaps, more generally admired. They should seek to emulate this little flower by seeking to bloom in the quiet paths of life. Others might be fond of the pleasures of the world, and love to stand in street corners or visit places of gaiety and amusement; but the places allotted for them were the quiet family circle and the shady coverings of the church, where quietly and unostentatiously they would devote themselves to good and noble acts of mercy. At the conclusion of the sermon three probationary associates first received the consecrated veils, and were afterwards crowned by Mr. Mackonochie with wreaths of roses and lilies. Lighted tapers were then handed to them, and they were again escorted to their places. After another prayer the procession was reformed, and again marched round the aisles, the whole carrying bouquets of flowers.

REPORT OF THE RITUAL COMMISSIONERS.

(From the *Times*.)

The Ritual Commissioners have just presented their "Fourth and Final Report." A perusal of it induces us to offer our most hearty congratulations to the commissioners on having arrived at the end of their labours. Nothing but a most exemplary spirit of mutual forbearance can have enabled them to agree so far as to publish any document at all. The commission was appointed with a view of "securing general uniformity of practice in such matters as may be deemed essential." The result has been to produce a general explosion of diversity among

the commissioners on the only points that can be deemed at all essential. We presume that some one, on behalf of Her Majesty, will have to take into consideration the recommendations of the commissioners, and we hope he will be able to discover what the recommendations are. It is in this respect the most extraordinary document it has ever been our misfortune to endeavour to comprehend. The report is signed by all the commissioners except three; but every one of these commissioners subsequently expresses his dissent from it in more or less important particulars. The report itself consists of half a page. The expressions of dissent from the report occupy no less than 21 pages. All the commissioners dissent once. Sixteen of them protest twice. Three of them protest three times. Lord Portman and Lord Ebury make no fewer than five separate protests, and Mr. Perry breaks out into as many as eight pages of elaborate dissent from even the most minute recommendations of his fellow commissioners. Lord Carnarvon and Sir Robert Phillimore, though they are "far from disapproving all the recommendations," yet feel themselves precluded from signing, because they "entertain doubts as to some, and dissent from others." Finally, Sir John Coleridge disappears altogether. It is evident that, after long consultation, the commissioners have agreed to differ. To add to the confusion, some of the dissentients take care to inform us that the final decisions of the commission are at variance with some of its former votes. "At least, in some instances, the beneficial changes which had been carried in earlier stages of our proceedings were reversed in the reduced or altered state of our commission, owing to the enforced absence of some of our members from illness or other causes." So that we cannot be sure that we really possess the recommendations of the majority of the commissioners. This explains an otherwise incomprehensible circumstance which meets the eye at the outset. The report, as we have said, is signed by twenty-seven commissioners. But it is immediately succeeded by a statement, signed by seventeen of the commissioners, that they "are unable to concur in the course taken by the commission with respect to the Athanasian Creed." In other words, the course which the commission formally recommends is disapproved by an absolute majority of the commissioners.

We greatly regret the collapse of an undertaking which at one time promised to render substantial service to the cause of order in the Church. Indeed, the good work done by former reports of the commissioners is practically undone in the present report. There can be no doubt, as several dissentients observe, that the cause which, more than any other, gave occasion to the appointment of the commission, was the abuse of the "Ornaments Rubric." This was the first point to which the commissioners addressed themselves, and they promptly recommended, in their first report, that the clergy should adhere to "the established usage." But it is obvious that, so long as the notorious "Ornaments Rubric" remains, without alteration, the legal rule on this subject, the Ritualistic clergy will pursue their vagaries under the shelter of its protection. The commissioners, however, have now presented their final report, without proposing either alteration or explanation in this rubric. The consequence is that they have left practically untouched the chief evil they were expected to remedy. The Bishop of London, the Archbishop of Armagh, the Bishops of Gloucester and of Chester, and four other commissioners represent that "the retention of this rubric in its present form appears to be inconsistent both with the instructions given to the commission and with the recommendations in the first and second reports." What, then, have the commissioners recommended? They propose a certain number of minor changes, most of which would, no doubt, be improvements. Permission is given to shorten Morning and Evening Prayers on week-days. A special note declares that only the "red letter days" are appointed to be observed throughout the year; but Mr. Perry objects that under such a notice the Knights of the Garter would probably be precluded from "keeping and celebrating solemnly the feast of their Order," and he is greatly concerned for "the continuity and catholicity" of the Church of England if she should cease to observe the day of St. John the Evangelist *ante port Lat.* Formal permission, again, will be at length given to separate the three services which, as though it were impossible to have too much of a good thing, are strung together in our customary Sunday-morning service. This would really be a great boon, but it is doubtful whether the bishops have not already power to authorise it without any change in the rubric. A very necessary new rubric would provide that the minister shall say the Communion Service with an audible voice. It would be considered sufficient to pray for the Queen once, or at most twice, in the course of the service. It is most reasonably proposed that the minister shall be at liberty, in administering the communion, to say the words of administration once to each railful of communicants, instead of repeating them to each person separately. One of the dissentients complains that this would sanction a modern innovation, forgetting that it would simply be a return to the original institution. The obsolete institution of sponsors is practically abolished by permitting one sponsor to be sufficient, and allowing parents to be sponsors for their own children.

Omitting a variety of smaller matters, there remain two important suggestions. The rubric is retained which forbids the use of the Burial Office over the unbaptized, the excommunicate, or suicides; but it is ordered that "it shall be lawful for the minister, at his discretion, to read" an abbreviated

service, which is provided, subject to the responsibility of submitting his conduct to the judgment of the Ordinary. Several dissentients urge that this is a compromise which will satisfy nobody. The unbaptized are still roughly classed with the excommunicate, and where there is a strong feeling on the subject a half-service will be as unwelcome as no service. But the question which evidently occasioned the keenest controversy among the commissioners was that of the use of the Athanasian Creed, with respect to which, as we have observed, they have made a recommendation which the majority do not approve. They have left unaltered the rubric prescribing its use; but they have added an explanatory note to the effect, "That the condemnations in this confession are to be no otherwise understood than as a solemn warning of the peril of those who wilfully reject the Catholic Faith." We think, on the whole, this lame conclusion is a matter for congratulation, for it has provoked an explosion of indignant criticism from the highest authorities, which must ultimately prove more fatal to the use of the creed than the most unanimous recommendation by a commission. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in more polite language, echoes the wish of his predecessor Tillotson, that "we were well rid of it." He points out that the explanation amounts to a distinct admission that the use of the creed in public worship is liable to objection, and he thinks it would have been a wiser course to omit it altogether. The Bishop of St. David's strongly disapproves the explanatory note, and declares that, in compelling the use of such a creed, the Church has "exercised and usurped authority in an uncharitable and mischievous way." Even Mr. Walpole thinks it very objectionable that "a congregation should be required to affirm and profess the articles of their faith in language which obviously, and in its natural sense, means one thing, while the interpretation put upon it means another." Mr. Buxton fully sustains the part of the indignant layman. The Professors of Divinity at Oxford and Cambridge concur in deprecating the continued use of the creed, and are supported by Mr. Humphry, a learned and experienced parish clergyman. Besides minor notes of dissent, Dean Stanley contributes a slashing onslaught on both the creed and the explanatory note, enumerating sixteen reasons against the former and eleven against the latter. After such a deliberate expression of opinion by such authorities, the creed is as good as surrendered, and the majority of the commission might as well have had their own way in discarding its public use. The commission, however, have only been able to agree on such points of detail as we have enumerated. On "such matters as may be deemed essential," which were especially recommended to their notice, they have been unable to adopt any decisive recommendations.

THE BURIALS BILL.—At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Liberation Society, the Committee passed resolutions expressing regret that, after the principle of the Burial Laws Amendment Bill had been affirmed by a decisive majority, the pressure of other Parliamentary business should have enabled a small minority to prevent its passing through the House of Commons. They also expressed their high sense of the ability and devotedness of Mr. Osborne Morgan, M.P., in the conduct of the measure, and resolved that steps should be taken to ensure its re-introduction at such a period next session as will defeat the obstructive tactics of the Opposition.

Archdeacon Denison is recovering from his late illness, but will be unable to resume his clerical duties for some time to come.

The Bishopric of Sierra Leone, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Beckles, has been conferred by Lord Kimberley upon the Rev. Henry Cheetham, M.A., vicar of Quarndon, near Derby.

DANIEL DEFOE.—The Memorial Pillar, erected by the boys and girls of England in Bunhill-fields upon the grave of Daniel Defoe, is to be uncovered on Friday, the 16th inst., at twelve o'clock precisely, by Charles Reed, Esq., M.P. The public are to be freely admitted to the ceremony.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF IRELAND.—At a meeting of the Representative Body of the new Church of Ireland, held on Thursday, it was resolved to approve the draft charter of incorporation, originally drafted by the Representative Body, as altered, on behalf of the Government, the alterations being such as in no way to affect the substance of the charter. It was also stated that the donations promised to the Church Sustentation Fund now amount to 263,250*l.*, and the annual subscriptions to 17,330*l.* The amount actually lodged in Bank is 135,124*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*

CONVENTUAL AND MONASTIC INSTITUTIONS.—The Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the state of the law respecting conventual and monastic institutions, and the terms on which property is held by them or their members, has to be added to the list of committees which did not conclude their inquiry last session. This committee, therefore, only report the evidence taken before them, and it has now been issued. They also recommend that the committee be reappointed next session. This recommendation, contained in the report proposed by the chairman, Mr. Villiers, was opposed by Mr. Newdegate, who moved that it be left out of the report; but its insertion was carried by a vote of four against two members.

THE NEW MASTER OF BALLIOL COLLEGE.—The Rev. B. Jowett, who has been elected to the Headship of Balliol College, began his Oxford career as a scholar of Balliol in the year 1836. In 1837 he obtained the Hertford Scholarship; and in 1839 was

placed, with five others, in the First Class, in "Literæ Humaniores." Among his companions were Sir Stafford Northcote, Dr. Kay, of Lincoln College, and the present Bishop of Manchester. In 1841 he obtained the Chancellor's prize for the best Latin essay. He was examiner in the Classical Schools in 1849-51, and again in 1853. In the year 1855 he was appointed Regius Professor of Greek by Lord Palmerston. He held the office of Moderator in 1859-60. He is the author of a commentary on "St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians," and of the well-known article in "Essays and Reviews." He is a strong Liberal, and has taken an important part in all University reforms. In addition to his labours as a theologian, he has proved himself a zealous and hardworking Professor, and is probably the most popular and successful tutor in the University.

THE POPE'S INFALLIBILITY.—The new dogma appears to be exciting more and more attention among the Roman Catholics of Germany. The Episcopal Conference at Fulda decided on accepting it, and the Archbishop of Munich, who presided over the gathering, has violated the Constitution by publishing the decisions of the Council as a supplement to his pastoral. It remains to be seen whether the Government will overlook the offence. Dr. Micheli, a distinguished theologian, who vehemently protested against the dogma, has been suspended by the Bishop of Emsland from the exercise of priestly functions. The priests and a number of the laity of Breslau have requested the Pope not to accept the resignation of their archbishop, Dr. Forster. On Friday the laymen of Coblenz, Bonn, and Cologne, who some time since memorialised the Bishop of Trèves and the Archbishop of Cologne on the subject, met at Cologne and adopted the following resolution:—"Considering that the assembly held in the Vatican did not deliberate with entire freedom, and did not adopt the weighty resolutions with the requisite unanimity, the undersigned Catholics declare that they do not recognise its decrees respecting the absolute authority of the Pope and his personal infallibility as the decisions of an Œcumenical Council, but reject them as an innovation in conflict with the traditional belief of the Church." This protest will circulate for signature in all the large towns of the Rhenish-Westphalian diocese. It has received the adhesion of many influential Roman Catholics in Coblenz, Bonn, Deutz, and elsewhere. The *Cologne Gazette* of Friday publishes 450 signatures, including those of many professors, professional men, and national and municipal dignitaries, and the list is not yet closed. The *Bavarian Courier*, an Ultramontane organ, in allusion to this movement and to other already noticed symptoms of insubordination, says:—"The position of the bishops begins to be more difficult than was the case during the sitting of the Council. Dissension shows itself everywhere."

Religious and Denominational News.

The Rev. James Davis, the secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, has sailed for New York to confer with the committee in the United States on the subject of the International Christian Conference, to be held next year in that country.

The Rev. G. Luckett, of Middleton, near Bakewell, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational church at Tamworth and Wilnecote, and purposes entering upon his labours there early in October.

GRAVESEND.—The Rev. J. Jackson Goadby, of Leicester, has accepted a most cordial and unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the church and congregation, Windmill-street, Gravesend, and enters upon his duties on the second Sunday in October.

CONGREGATIONAL SUSTENTATION FUND.—The conference of delegates from the County Associations and other bodies to consider the project of a Sustentation Fund, convened in accordance with a resolution of the Union at Wolverhampton last year, will be held in London next week.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—The autumnal session of the Congregational Union, at Plymouth, will be held, as originally settled, in the second instead of the fourth week of October. It will commence on the 10th of that month. The New York Evangelical Conference, at which so many of its ministers and members were intending to be present, having been postponed, there was no reason why the Union should not revert to the earlier and more convenient date. The programme of the session will be found in our advertising columns.

STOKE GREEN CHAPEL, IPSWICH.—On Monday, August 1st, the Rev. A. T. Osborne, according to previous intimation, resigned the pastorate of the Baptist church meeting at Stoke Green. The church spoke in very high terms of the character and ministerial efficiency of their pastor, and by a very large majority declined to accept his resignation. The rev. gentleman having taken time to consider the decision of the church, stated at a subsequent meeting that while desirous to comply with their wish, he felt it his duty to abide with his determination, and intimated that if convenient to them he would close his pastoral labours on the last Sunday in October.

MOLD, FLINTSHIRE.—Services in connection with the settlement of the Rev. D. Burford Hooke as pastor of the Congregational Church, Mold, were held during the past week. On Sunday the anniversary sermons were preached by the Rev. Theodore Hooke, of Chelmsford. On the following day a tea-meeting was held in the market-hall, after which there was a public meeting, when brief addresses of

welcome were given by the Revs. Warlow Harry (who presided), J. Griffiths (of Buckley), T. Peters (district secretary of the Cheshire Congregational Union), and P. W. Darnton, B.A. (of Chester), Messrs. J. W. Wright and Ellis Edwards (of Edinburgh University), and others. Later an adjournment was made to the church, when the recognition service was held, the Rev. Warlow Harry again presiding. Mr. Wright read the Scriptures and offered prayer. The Rev. F. B. Brown, of Wrexham, made the statement of Congregational principles. The Rev. T. Peters offered the recognition prayer. The Rev. Theodore Hooke gave the charge, and the Rev. P. W. Darnton preached to the people.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Welsh Congregational Church, Wheeler-street, held their annual meeting August 27th, 28th, and 29th. Sermons were delivered on the occasion by the Revs. E. Evans, Caernarvon, and T. Davies, Llandilo. The Rev. J. Lewis, late of Corwen, Merionethshire, has taken charge of the church, which augurs well for its future prosperity. But there is one great drawback, viz., the want of a suitable chapel. The church and congregation meet at present in a schoolroom, but it is in contemplation to erect a new place of worship at the commencement of the present pastorate. As this house of God will be built under peculiar circumstances, being the only Welsh Congregational chapel in Birmingham, where so many Welshmen resort for employment, especially young men and young women; and it being intended for their accommodation, as well as for the Welsh residents in the town, it is confidently hoped that some benevolent Christian friends in Wales, and also in England, will come forward and render effective aid to them.—*From a Correspondent.*

SUSSEX HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—On Thursday last Thomas Spalding, Esq., and Mrs. Spalding, of Ore-place, Hastings, again, as on three preceding years, entertained the evangelists and other friends of the above society in a most hospitable manner. There were present Mr. and Mrs. Spalding and family, a number of ministers, nine evangelists, and other friends. The grounds were thrown open to the company, and at two o'clock dinner was provided in the schoolroom. The decorations were in excellent taste, flowers in rich variety, and the tables plentifully and elegantly supplied. In addressing the assembled guests, Mr. Spalding gave them all a hearty welcome, especially the evangelists, who were honoured for their work's sake. He had observed that donations to religious and benevolent societies had, by frequent repetition, come to be regarded as annual subscriptions. He was well pleased that that meeting should now be viewed in the same light. Those who were present considered it a munificent annual subscription, and one of the speakers remarked that although the evangelists are entitled to, and much need, a fortnight's rest in each year, they never select the month of September—a clear evidence of sound judgment on their part. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. Dr. Parker, A. Reed, R. Hamilton, R. V. Pryor, L. Harris, A. Foyster, and Messrs. C. Reed, M.P., Hawkins, Spong, and Snell. Before leaving, the Evangelists were each presented with a copy of "The Life and Philanthropic Labours of Andrew Reed, D.D.; 'Shall I live for ever?'" by the Rev. W. Barker; and of discourses delivered by the Rev. A. Reed, B.A., and Rev. Henry Allon, at the Ordination of the Rev. J. C. New. The day was beautifully fine, and will be remembered with great pleasure and satisfaction.

HACKNEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.—A special inaugural service was held at this institution on Wednesday, September 7, in connection with the commencement of the session, and also with the entrance of the Rev. George Lyon Turner, M.A., upon the offices of classical and Hebrew tutor. Tea was served in the hall at six o'clock, and at seven the library was filled with a numerous and respectable company, including many ladies. Ebenezer Viney, Esq., one of the treasurers, having been called to the chair, a hymn was given out by the Rev. C. Dukes, M.A., and portions of Scripture were read by the Rev. S. Parkinson, of Croydon, followed by prayer offered by the Rev. W. Bevan. The Rev. S. McAll, theological tutor, stated that letters of apology and expressive of interest in the occasion, had been received from Drs. Spence and Wardlaw, and the Rev. Messrs. Gill, Fielden, Tissions, and others. A communication also read from the Rev. Dr. Reynolds, expressive of his high regard for Mr. Turner, his former pupil; and congratulating the college on this acquisition to its professorial staff. The Rev. J. E. Richards, Secretary, having given out a hymn, an address of welcome, marked by equal kindness and judgment, was delivered to Mr. Turner, on behalf of the committee, by the Rev. Edward Mannering; and this having been confirmed in a very cordial impromptu address by the Rev. John Nunn, it was responded to with much feeling and in appropriate terms by the newly-appointed tutor. The theological tutor, at the request of the chairman, then said a few words expressive of the pleasure which on every account the occasion afforded to himself. A hymn having been given out by the Rev. Robert Ashton, a prayer, solemnly imploring the blessing of God on the connection just formed, was offered by the Rev. W. Tyler. The Rev. Samuel Ransom, the late classical tutor, to whom repeated and very kindly references were made, was present, but on the ground of his health desired to be excused from speaking. Besides the ministers above-named, the Rev. Messrs. Vine, Farren, Ramsey, Halsey, Wood, and S. W. McAll, M.A., were present, together with the students; Mr. Liddell, lecturer in mathematics; Messrs. Crane, Dobell, and Saddington, members of com

mittee; — Turner, Esq., E. Pye-Smith, Esq., Mr. Joseph Bell, Mr. Bishop, and Mr. Bellamy, &c. The perfectly harmonious manner in which the arrangement has been brought about, and the general approval of the choice, were the subject of hearty congratulation.

A CHURCH CHOIR IN MADAGASCAR.—The Rev. J. Richardson, writing to Mr. Ourwen, gives the following account of the singing in one of the mission churches in the island:—"At the bottom of the hill on the eastern side of the capital there is a chapel that was under the care of Mr. Jukes. I have preached there frequently. The singers, nearly all slaves, sit under the pulpit. They are divided into little parties of four and five. One party of five tenors sits close to me. They beat a certain kind of time with the closed fist of one hand striking the open palm of the other, and you hear the clap! clap! all the way through. The time is arranged to suit their 'taste,' and it is the special duty of these five to see that they do not all stop together, and so, when one has finished, he gives his neighbour a poke in the ribs (literally) and he takes up the 'music.' They put a shake on every note—a great achievement. In the centre of this group is a native basket filled with earth, used as a spittoon; and what with the passing of the snuff-box, spitting, knocking, and congratulating when done, the scene is most disheartening. I have only once been really cast down since I came, and that was when returning from this chapel for first time. I can mention three chapels in the city where it is almost as bad, one where a young slave makes the most frightful contortions to keep up the twirl on each note, and another where a woman sings always a third, and very frequently a fifth, above the treble in a shrill treble voice!" Mr. Richardson is, however, doing his best to remedy this deplorable state of things. His Tonic Sol-fa classes have been valuable instruments in improving the service of song. So highly do the natives appreciate his efforts, that on it being known he was about to leave the capital, a deputation from the nine town churches waited upon the missionaries, begging them to write home that he may be recalled from Fianarankoa. They said about the singing, "You have tried, and we have tried, and both of us have failed, and now we acknowledge Mr. Richardson is right, and he is succeeding. Is not singing a most important thing? You all say it is, and we beg very much that you will write home telling our friends our earnest desire."

RIPON.—The foundation stone of a new Congregational Church was laid at Ripon on Friday, the 2nd September. There was a procession from the present chapel to the new site, which is all that could be desired. The ministers and other gentlemen gathered around the stone, the gallery erected was occupied by ladies and other friends. The Rev. J. Andrews, the pastor, gave out a hymn, the Rev. H. Cross, of Knaresborough, read the 87th Psalm, and the Rev. J. Croft engaged in prayer. A copy of the document which was deposited in a bottle, and placed in a cavity below the stone, was read by the pastor. The following are some of the interesting particulars, viz.:—"The present chapel was opened for Divine service in September, 1818. Only three pastors have presided over the church from its commencement—the late Rev. B. Martin, the Rev. J. Croft, and the Rev. J. Andrews, the present pastor. Various circumstances having suggested to different minds the necessity of a new and better place of worship, it was resolved to arise and build, but it was most difficult to procure a site. Several gentlemen feeling interested in the movement took a prominent part to obtain one. Mr. John Crossley, J.P., Halifax, first suggested the site on which the church, schools, and minister's house will be erected. At a meeting which was held on the 15th March, it was stated that the following gentlemen, viz., Messrs. L. J. Crossley, of Halifax; J. Law, J.P., and R. Yates, of Bradford; W. H. Conyers, and R. Galloworthy, of Leeds; J. Mountain, of Knaresborough; G. Jackson, J.P., W. Rayner, and W. McConnochie, of Ripon, were prepared to present, free of all cost, a sufficient portion of a field which they had bought on which to erect the above buildings, the other portion of land being laid out for villa residences. The munificent offer, value 766*l.*, was very gratefully accepted by the pastor on behalf of the church. The designs prepared by Mr. J. P. Pritchett, F.R.I.B.A., architect, Darlington, have been accepted by the building committee, and the works for the church let. The cost of the church will be about 3,000*l.*, and for the whole scheme about 4,500*l.*" A handsome silver trowel was presented by the Rev. J. Andrews, and a beautiful mallet by the Rev. J. Croft, to Mr. W. H. Conyers, of Leeds, who, in the name of the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, declared the first stone in the building to be duly and truly laid. After some more appropriate remarks from Mr. Conyers, a most able address was delivered by the Rev. J. B. Campbell, M.A., D.D., of Bradford. The Rev. W. Thomas, of Leeds, presented a most expressive prayer. The collection having been made, the pastor pronounced the benediction. One verse of the National Anthem was then sung, and the assembly adjourned to the Temperance Hall, where about 200 sat down to an excellent tea. J. Law, Esq., J.P., of Bradford, presided at the evening meeting, which was well attended. Suitable addresses were delivered by the Revs. W. Thomas, of Leeds; H. Cross, of Knaresborough; J. F. Goodall, J. Croft, and J. Andrews, of Ripon; Messrs. W. H. Conyers, of Leeds; and C. Robertshaw, of Allerton, Bradford. The collections and donations for the day were of an encouraging character.

Correspondence.

THE WORKING OF THE NEW EDUCATION ACT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—On returning to London, after a holiday, I find awaiting me letters which may be regarded as the precursors of many others of the same character—the drops before the shower. They relate, not to the Education Bill, but to the Education Act, and solicit information and advice relative to its working, with a view to the guidance of those Nonconformists who think it right to watch the working of the Act, and to make the best they can of it in their own localities.

For reasons, which it is unnecessary to state, it will not be in the power of the Liberation Society to act as adviser-general in this matter, as it has done in regard to Church-rates, the Burial Laws, and some other legal questions. And yet there is much work to be done in this direction, and, so far as I am aware, no public body to whom it properly belongs—unless, indeed, the National Education League will feel it to be its duty to organise a department for the purpose.

I suggest to them, as well as to the Central Nonconformist Committee, lately formed in Birmingham, the consideration of this matter, for, in the absence of some provision for the purpose, the Episcopalians, led, and backed, by the National Society, will have Nonconformists at a great disadvantage.

The question of primary education is not the only one which calls for the action of some central body, in the interests of Nonconformity. The Endowed Schools Act is now in operation, and with new "schemes" for the management of grammar-schools, prepared, or impending, all over the country, there is at present no quarter which can be looked to for that authoritative information and advice which, in the case of small towns, is often so greatly needed.

Good would be done if one of the many individuals who took part in the recent agitation would prepare a popular edition of both the Education and the Endowed Schools Acts—accompanying them with an analysis and index, and practical suggestions. That is a specific piece of work which requires no organisation or authority, and not much labour or expense, and, if some one will promptly take it in hand, his services, I venture to promise, will be fully appreciated.

Your obedient servant,

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.

2, Serjeants' Inn, Sept. 12.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have learned that the Education League has announced that one of the new purposes for which its organisation should be maintained is, "To assist in putting the Education Act in operation, so as to secure, as far as possible, the establishment of unsectarian, compulsory, and free schools."

A CONGREGATIONAL SUSTENTATION FUND.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Much has been written upon the difficulties of establishing a sustentation fund, to raise the salaries of ministers when the churches are unable to support them. As a conference is to be held next week on this subject, will you kindly give me space in your valuable paper for a suggestion or two,—the result of twenty-four years' experience? Whatever suggestion may be made, whatever plan may be adopted, whatever labour may be bestowed, nothing will raise Congregationalism in our villages and small towns but raising the position of ministers financially. Great mistakes are made and wrong judgments are often formed concerning the position of ministers and churches. We hear it said sometimes that if ministers are loved by their people they will provide means for their support. This is a mistake. Many churches are struggling to do their utmost, even to doubling their subscriptions, to support their minister, and then it only reaches sixty or seventy pounds. These churches are often subject to great losses by removals of some of their best subscribers, and their places are not filled up as in larger places. It is also stated that if you provide a more educated ministry for the villages you will succeed; but this has been tried and failed. Our college brethren have tried and failed. If learning was essential to meet the spiritual wants of our villages, the want would have been supplied long ago. Look at the clergymen of the Established Church,—they are college men, some of the highest type of learning,—they have failed.

What gives them the position they hold, the power they exert? Not their learning, not their piety, not their power of preaching,—but their wealth.

Go into any village where the clergyman is receiving his four or six hundred pounds a-year, can drive his carriage, distribute his bounty to the poor; and where the Dissenting minister is receiving only sixty or seventy pounds a-year, or even less:—the clergyman is looked up to because he is rich, the Dissenting minister is thought little of as a poor man. Change their position: Let the clergyman take the place of the Dissenting minister with his sixty or seventy pounds a-year, and the Dissenting minister the place of the clergyman with his four or six hundred pounds a-year. You at once reduce the status of the clergyman and raise the

Dissenting minister,—the power and influence of the clergyman is diminished, and the power and influence of the Dissenting minister is increased.

In small places where a Dissenting minister has private means, and is not depending upon his people for support—receiving only thirty or forty pounds a-year—he holds his position, and a respect is paid to him by a certain class which previous ministers failed to obtain, although his preaching abilities and piety and labours may be inferior to theirs. Why is this? His money qualification. But the suggestion I have to make is, that many of the difficulties of raising a sustentation fund may be removed by starting with a fund to encourage ministers who are prepared to evangelise the village around their chapels. The wants of our villages will never be met by the minister confining his time to the one village. Let those be encouraged who are labouring to accomplish this work, and let the grant be made to the minister for this evangelistic work. Let the churches be brought to feel they must lay themselves out for this work, and the laymen must join in carrying out this work.

The selfishness of some of our churches has to be overcome in this matter. They think the minister must devote himself entirely to them; they care nothing about their neighbours around. If the grant be made to the church without these conditions much good will be prevented. When our young men go from college to take village pastorates, their salary should be regulated according to these conditions. There is nothing that will so benefit them physically, as well as mentally, as this evangelistic work, and holding village services, where their powers of extempore speaking will be brought out and exercised. The uniting of village churches must be adopted before we shall thoroughly succeed in meeting their spiritual wants.

I give these suggestions as the experience of twenty-four years, during which time I have formed two or three village stations in connection with my church, wherever I have laboured. I go on Sunday afternoon to one of them, returning for my evening service, and in the week to visit them and hold cottage services.

I am, yours sincerely,

A COUNTRY PASTOR.

Sept. 12, 1870.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Viewing the state and prospects of popular education at the present time, it may be of interest to many of your readers to be made acquainted with a movement, which although but recently initiated, promises to become both extensive and important.

In the early part of the present year the Committee of the Sunday-school Union determined to institute a system of Competitive Examinations for Sunday-school teachers in Biblical history and literature, the art of teaching, and other subjects connected with the work of religious education, desiring by this means to stimulate and encourage the members of the various schools affiliated with the Union, to systematic and vigorous efforts to qualify themselves for their responsible duties.

The first Scripture examination was fixed for the 28th June, and although but brief notice could be given, more than two hundred Sunday-school teachers connected with schools in and around the metropolis voluntarily came forward as candidates, and of that number 154 presented themselves for examination at the appointed time. Certificates were offered to all who should attain a given standard of proficiency; and prizes of books to those who might specially distinguish themselves. The proceedings were conducted as at an ordinary collegiate examination; printed questions testing somewhat closely the Biblical and theological knowledge of the candidates being distributed, and answers given in writing. The report of the examiners (the Rev. Professor Green, D.D., of Rawdon College, and L. D. Bevan, LL.B., and Mr. W. H. Groser, B.Sc., F.G.S.) has just been issued, and is of a very gratifying character.

Nearly 49 per cent. of the candidates obtained a first-class, and thirty-five a second-class certificate, only 16 per cent. failing to satisfy the requirements of the examiners, while the earnest and persevering industry with which the candidates applied themselves to their self-imposed task were worthy of all praise.

There can be little doubt that this movement will become a recognised system, not only in London, but throughout the country. Already appeals have been forwarded to the Committee of the Sunday School Union, asking that the advantages of examination may be extended to provincial teachers. But without attempting to speculate on future details, we are amply warranted in believing on the evidence now afforded that the workers in our Sunday-schools are neither unobservant of the signs of the times, nor unwilling to put forth efforts to meet the increased responsibilities which educational changes seem destined to lay upon them.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

WILLIAM GROSER, Hon. Cor. Sec.
Sunday-school Union, Sept. 7.

The war is proving very beneficial to the Cornish watering-places, especially to Penzance.

THE WAR.

THE GERMAN ADVANCE UPON PARIS.

The *Staats-Anzeiger* thus describes the intended advance upon the enemy's capital:—"Our armies are in full march on Paris. The head-quarters have gone on to St. Ménehould, in order to keep up with their advance and direct personally the chief movements. The chief lines for the forces to use are, to the north, the road from Château-Porriou by Soissons, and to the south that from Châlons by Château-Thierry. The line by Troyes appears from the later movements of the Third Army to have been given up as too far out of the way. The northern route follows the right bank of the Aisne to Soissons, and then the Imperial road by Villers-Cotteret and St. Denis. The southern goes along the Marne by Epernay, Château-Thierry, and Meaux. The corps of Vinoy having failed to unite with MacMahon, has already drawn back upon Soissons before the advance of the Crown Prince, as soon as the first of our skirmishers showed themselves at Fismes, the chief station on the branch railroad from Rheims to Soissons." (Fismes, it may be observed, is about ninety miles from Paris; the country between is intersected with fine roads, and the general slope inclines down the basin of the Seine towards the capital.)

The general aspect of affairs up to Monday is indicated by the *Times* in an article of that date, as follows:—

"The siege of Paris may almost be said to have begun. Five German Army Corps, two of which are fresh arrivals and have not yet been in action, have been, in the course of last week, on their march towards Paris, and they are followed by two other Army Corps, under the Crown Prince of Prussia, one of them consisting of Bavarian troops. All these seven corps—a force of at least 300,000 men—are expected to reach their appointed positions, at about twenty-five miles distance from Paris, on or before the day after to-morrow. Their advanced guards have already made their appearance on all the main eastern and northern routes, the armies following close upon their track. On the eastern side, on the vast plains of the Marne, columns of 10,000 men were on Thursday last marching on Sésanne and Montmirail, while 500 had reached Château-Thierry, and as many were pushing on to La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, and threatening Coulommiers and Meaux. Further north, they marched from Rheims on Laon and Soissons. They entered the former place on Friday, and yesterday they were at Chauny, on the Oise, eighteen miles to the west of Laon, while they encompassed Soissons on all sides, at Wailly, on the Aisne, to the east of the place, at Villers-Cotterets and Crespy, to the south-west, and at Compiègne and Clermont-les-Fermes to the west of it. At Clermont 5,000 to 6,000 Prussians were encamped yesterday. A glance at the map will show that by the latest accounts the Prussians were already in possession of all the roads and railroads east and north of Paris from the lines by Troyes and Chaumont to Baule to that by Beauvais to Dieppe.

"The subjugation of the country from the Moselle and the Meuse to the Seine has thus far encountered scarcely any open resistance. It was expected that Laon, a place standing on a lofty eminence at the end of a long ridge, which there drops abruptly into the plain, might retard the invaders' progress; but the officer in command, General d'Hame, in his anxiety to save the town, surrendered the citadel. Whatever may be the feelings of those eastern and northern departments towards their victorious enemies, the intercourse between them not only leads to no collision, but is amicably carried on. The Prussian commanders enforce the strictest discipline, they buy up the provisions they require above market price and in hard cash, the peasantry eagerly bringing in to them their cattle and corn, which they hide from the foragers of their own nation. The animosity of the French against the Prussians appears not to have sunk very deep into the hearts of the rural population, and all efforts to prevent the cities of Champagne from following the example of submission first set to them by Nancy have been unavailing. The war is looked upon as the soldiers' business, and, upon the collapse of the great armies at Woerth, Metz, and Sedan, the energies of the country seem to find no other field for exertion than the narrow space round the walls of the capital. Paris is to do all the fighting for France; and all the life-blood of the provinces, all the youth able to bear arms, mustered into legions of Mobile Guards, have been summoned within that panoply of forts, bastions, and barricades which is to make Paris invulnerable. It is not, however, merely on stone walls and earth mounds, on cannon and muskets, that the Parisians rely; they are said to contemplate a war of extermination, in which they will no more spare themselves and their defenceless population than their foes. One veracious account declares, 'They have stored the catacombs with thousands of barrels of petroleum, to be exploded on the Prussians entering the city. The petroleum is to be forced by hydraulic pressure through the gas mains of the city; the Hotel de Ville and the Louvre are mined; wells are to be poisoned; the fakers to be supplied with strychnine, &c.' We have quoted this statement, but we have no reason to believe the French will have recourse to such enormities. At Laon a powder magazine in the citadel did, indeed,

explode soon after the entrance of the Prussians, which destroyed part of the fortress and many officers and soldiers of the invading army; but we cannot regard the event as the result of deliberate assassination, seeing that the French Commander, General d'Hame, and some of the Mobile Guards, have been among the victims, and that the Prussians have shown no disposition to retaliate upon the town, which lay at their mercy, and which, indeed, it would have seemed natural to hold responsible for a deed that would have been atrocious if it had not been accidental."

A part of the German forces was at Nogent-sur-Seine early on Monday morning. The telegraph was cut at Noisy-Lesey, close to the fort of that name under the walls of Paris. Another body was in the neighbourhood of Meaux and Melun, about thirty miles from Paris. It is stated that all the bridges on the public roads, railways, rivers, and canals in the neighbourhood of Meaux (Seine-et-Marne) have been cut, and the enemy will require several days to repair these works so as to pass his material. On Sunday the Germans summoned the town of Soissons to surrender. The Commandant replied that he would rather blow up the place—a reply which was approved by the inhabitants. Four Uhlans made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Soissons. Fire was opened upon them.

M. Gambetta publishes some intelligence from Toul which may be placed beside that which he published from Strasbourg last week. According to the French Minister of the Interior, "On Saturday, from five a.m. until nine p.m., the Prussians attacked Toul. Their assaults were repulsed, and all their batteries dismantled. Their losses amount to 10,000 men hors de combat." It is hardly necessary to say that there are not 10,000, nor 5,000, Germans before Toul.

Such is not the opinion of the Prussian sovereign. King William has telegraphed to Queen Augusta that the French blew up the citadel of Laon after the entry of the Prussian troops, fifty of whom, with 300 Mobile Guards, were killed. Among the wounded is Prince William of Mecklenburg. The King has no hesitation in ascribing the disaster "to treachery."

KING WILLIAM AND THE CAPITULATION OF SEDAN.

The following is the text of the despatch sent by the King of Prussia to the Queen:—

To Queen Augusta, in Berlin.

Vendresse, South of Sedan, Sept. 3.

You will have learned through my three telegrams the whole extent of the great historical event which has just taken place. It is like a dream, even when one has seen it unroll itself hour by hour; but when I consider that after one great successful war I could not expect anything more glorious during my reign, and that I now see the successful issue of an act which is destined to be famous in the history of the world, I bow before God, who alone has chosen my army and allies to carry it into execution, and has chosen us as the instruments of His will. It is only in this sense that I can conceive this work, and in all humility I praise God's guidance and grace. I will now give you a picture of the battle and its results in a compressed form. On the evening of the 31st and the morning of the 1st the army had reached the appointed positions round Sedan. The Bavarians held the left wing, near Bazailles, on the Meuse; next them the Saxons, towards Moncelle and Daigny; the Guards still marching towards Givonne, the Fifth and Eleventh corps towards St. Menges and Fleigneux. As the Meuse here makes a sharp bend, no corps had been posted from St. Menges to Donchery, but at the latter place there were Wurtembergers, who covered the rear against sallies from Mesières. Count Stolberg's cavalry division was in the plain of Donchery as right wing; the rest of the Bavarians were in the front towards Sedan. Notwithstanding a thick fog, the battle began at Bazailles early in the morning, and a sharp action developed itself by degrees, in which it was necessary to take house by house. It lasted nearly all day, and Scholer's Erfurt division (Reserve, Fourth Corps) was obliged to assist. It was eight o'clock when I reached the front before Sedan, and then the great battery commenced. A hot artillery action now began at all points. It lasted for hours, and during it we gradually gained ground. As the above-named villages were taken, very deep and wooded ravines made the advance of the infantry more difficult and favoured the defence. The villages of Illy and Floing were taken, and the fiery circle drew gradually closer round Sedan. It was a grand sight from our position on a commanding height behind the above-mentioned battery, when we looked to the front beyond St. Forey. The violent resistance of the enemy began to slacken by degrees, which we could see by the broken battalions who were hurriedly retreating from the woods and villages. The cavalry endeavoured to attack several battalions of our Fifth Corps, and the latter behaved admirably. The cavalry galloped through the interval between the battalions, and then returned the same way. This was repeated three times, so that the ground was covered with corpses and horses, all of which we could see very well from our position. I have not been able to learn the number of this brave regiment, as the retreat of the enemy was in many places a flight. The infantry, cavalry, and artillery rushed in a crowd into the town and its immediate environs, but no sign was given that the enemy contemplated extricating himself from his desperate situation by capitulation. No other course was left than to bombard the town with the heavy battery. In twenty minutes the town was burning in several places, which, with the numerous burning villages over the whole field, produced a terrible impression. I accordingly ordered the firing to cease, and sent Lieutenant-Colonel von Bronsart, of the staff, with a flag of truce to demand the capitulation of the army and the fortress. He was met by a Bavarian officer, who reported to me that a French parlementaire had announced himself at the gate. Colonel von Bronsart was admitted, and on his asking for the Commander-in-Chief, he was unexpectedly introduced into the presence of the Emperor, who wished to give him a letter for

myself. When the Emperor asked what his message was, and received the answer, "To demand the surrender of the army and fortress," he replied that on this subject he must apply to General de Wimpffen, who had undertaken the command, in the place of the wounded General MacMahon, and that he would now send his adjutant-general, Reille, with the letter to myself. It was seven o'clock when Reille and Bronsart came to me, the latter a little in advance; and it was first through him that I learned with certainty the presence of the Emperor. You may imagine the impression which this made upon all of us, but particularly on myself. Reille sprang from his horse, and gave me the letter of the Emperor, adding that he had no other orders. Before I opened the letter I said to him, "But I demand, as the first condition, that the army lay down its arms." The letter begins thus: "N'ayant pas pu mourir à la tête de mes troupes, je dépose mon épée à votre Majesté," leaving all the rest to me. My answer was that I deplored the manner of our meeting, and begged that a plenipotentiary might be sent with whom we might conclude the capitulation. After I had given the letter to General Reille I spoke a few words with him as an old acquaintance, and a little act ended. I gave Moltke powers to negotiate, and directed Bismarck to remain behind in case political questions should arise. I then rode to my carriage and drove here, greeted everywhere along the road with the loud hurrahs of the trains that were marching up, and singing the National Hymn. It was deeply touching. Candles were lighted everywhere, so that we were driven through an improvised illumination. I arrived here at eleven o'clock, and drank with those about me to the prosperity of an army which had accomplished such feats. As on the morning of the 2nd I had received no news from Moltke respecting negotiations for the capitulation, which were to take place at Donchery, I drove to the battle-field, according to agreement, at eight o'clock, and met Moltke, who was coming to obtain my consent to the proposed capitulation. He told me at the same time that the Emperor had left Sedan at five o'clock in the morning, and had come to Donchery, as he wished to speak with me. There was a chateau and park in the neighbourhood, and I chose that place for our meeting. At ten o'clock I reached the heights before Sedan. Moltke and Bismarck appeared at twelve o'clock, with the capitulation duly signed. At one o'clock I started again with Fritz, the Crown Prince, and, escorted by the cavalry and the staff, I alighted before the chateau where the Emperor came to meet me. The visit lasted a quarter of an hour. We were both much moved at seeing each other again under such circumstances. What my feelings were—I had seen Napoleon only three years before at the summit of his power—is more than I can describe. After this meeting, from half-past two to half-past seven o'clock, I rode past the whole army before Sedan. The reception given me by the troops, the meeting with the guards, now decimated—all these are things which I cannot describe to-day. I was much touched by so many proofs of love and devotion. Now, farewell, with a heart deeply moved at the conclusion of such a letter. WILHELM.

In a long report to the King, which is published in the *Staatsanzeiger*, Count Bismarck says that the Emperor Napoleon, in the interview at Sedan, chiefly endeavoured to obtain favourable terms for his army, proposing to let the troops cross into Belgium to be disarmed. This was not acceded to. Napoleon declined, as a prisoner, to treat for peace, deplored the misfortunes of the war, and declared that he himself had not desired war, but that the pressure of public opinion in France had forced him into it. The general political situation was not discussed. The conduct of General de Wimpffen and other French Generals was highly praised. General de Wimpffen, in a letter to Count Moltke, expressed thanks for the consideration which had been shown to him in the terms of surrender.

A great number of the French prisoners, who are awaiting their removal to Germany, have escaped to Belgium, not being sufficiently guarded.

A Prussian official despatch from Rheims says:—"Besides 25,000 prisoners taken in the battle of Sedan, 83,000 men, including 4,000 officers and 14,000 wounded, surrendered by capitulation. Adding to these the losses at Beaumont, and about 3,000 escaped to Belgium, MacMahon's army must have numbered nearly 150,000. Above 400 field guns, 70 mitrailleuses, 160 fortress guns, 10,000 horses, and an enormous material were taken. A number of French generals and commanders, among them Wimpffen, not having signed the Sedan capitulation, are sent to Germany as prisoners. Tents for 10,000 Sedan prisoners are pitched at Stettin."

A Berlin despatch says:—"The total loss sustained by MacMahon's army since the battle of Beaumont is 140,000 men. The number of field guns taken is now found to be 400. Numerous guns were thrown by the French into the river Meuse."

Marshal MacMahon, who has been residing at Pourou-aux-Bois, near Bouillon, at the chateau of the Mayor, has sent to the *Organs* of Namur, the following interesting note:—"Marshal MacMahon was wounded on the 1st of September, at six in the morning, at the very commencement of the last battle, in which he held no command. It was by order of the Minister of War, Comte de Palikao, and of the Committee of Defence, that he executed the march which proved so fatal to the arms of France. This is what infallibly happens when people take upon them to direct the movements of distant armies from the closet. In these circumstances one can draw up a general plan, but one cannot descend to details; and this is what General Cousin de Montauban forgot. Marshal MacMahon's intention was to fall back on Paris, after having reorganised the army so unfortunately undone at Sedan. He was not permitted to accomplish his wise project. As soon as the state of his health will permit, Marshal MacMahon will not fail to publish proofs that he cannot be considered responsible for the immense disaster at Sedan. Between a victorious army and the frontier of a neutral nation there was no escape if an accident occurred."

THE SIEGE OF STRASBOURG.

All the other fortresses Metz, Betsche, Phelabourg, Toul, Verdun and Montmedy continue to hold out. A telegram from Karlsruhe of the 8th says:—"Upon being informed of the important events which had taken place at Sedan, General Uhrich proposed to surrender Strasburg, provided his forces were permitted to march out with all the honours of war. The German commander refused these terms, insisting upon an unconditional surrender. The bombardment is now being continued with increased rigour, but the assault is not expected to take place in less than a fortnight. The fire is entirely concentrated on the fortification." Strasburg is now invested by 60,000 men. Only women and children will be permitted by the Germans to leave the town in future. Much damage has been done to the cathedral, and burnt fragments from the library have blackened the surrounding country. It is impossible to walk in the streets without danger from bombs, and provisions are becoming daily scarcer, thousands having exhausted their stores. Vegetables and potatoes are unknown, beef and pork are at monstrous prices, and even well-to-do persons are glad to procure a little horseflesh. The people are much embittered against the Governor, as he placed his family betimes in safety, and must know there is no possibility of relief. The minister is seriously injured, the organ, the famous astronomical clock, and the high altar being destroyed.

A Frankfurt journal reports that a regiment belonging to the garrison of Strasburg marched out of the fortress on Sunday week, and laid down their arms, stating that they were not bound by the military oath to the Emperor. Trenches four feet deep and six wide extend over a line of about six leagues. The fire of the besiegers was reopened on next day (Monday) with much greater violence, the besieged replying feebly. Two immense mortars of a new description were to open on Wednesday. The third parallel has not been quite completed. The environs of Schlestadt (or Schlestadt) have been laid under water, and a bombardment has been opened. Some Alsatian towns have shown a refractory spirit, and it has been thought necessary to bombard St. Marie-aux-Mines, a town a few miles to the east of Schlestadt. The franc-tireurs came up to the succour of the town, but were beaten and compelled to surrender; they numbered about 2,000.

The *Cologne Gazette* gives the most emphatic denial to the telegram said to have been sent by the French consul at Basle, stating that 8,000 or 10,000 Prussians had been killed before Strasburg, and that the enemy, who were attempting to cross on a pontoon bridge between the Judenthor and the Austerlitz-Thor, were mowed down to a man by the mitrailleuses posted at the Fischer-Thor, and declares this statement to be without the slightest foundation.

THE LATE ATTEMPT TO BREAK OUT OF METZ.

A correspondent of the *Telegraph* in the German camp before Metz, gives an account of the battle that took place there on the 31st ult. He says:—"The 1st Army Corps, with the 10th Army Corps, was soon briskly engaged with the French, who had taken up a position with their left resting on the village of St. Julien, whilst their right occupied a position between the railroad to Thionville and an earthwork thrown up outside Grigy. The Prussians occupied a position above the last-mentioned places, General Manteuffel's Army Corps being opposed to the French right, whilst the 10th Army Corps, with whom was Prince Friederich Carl, was engaged with the centre and left. As yet the action had been confined to artillery fire, and a portion of St. Julien was in flames; but shortly after my arrival the French tirailleurs came on in a perfect cloud, and occupied a small hamlet in the centre of their right attack. Against these the Prussians sent a regiment of infantry and a battalion of Jager, and the fire became hot, although at a somewhat wide range. After about two hours of this work the Prussian cavalry made a feint, as if to cut off the French tirailleurs, but they were quickly withdrawn, being somewhat severely handled by the French artillery, who shelled them most unmercifully. The Prussian cavalry are so anxious to come into contact and try conclusions with the French, that they occasionally expose themselves unnecessarily and injudiciously. Whilst this was taking place on the right, the French left had retired from the village of St. Julien, and had taken up a fresh position nearer Metz, the 10th Army Corps having advanced a mass of troops, and overwhelmed them by sheer numbers. Meantime the action was carried on briskly in the neighbourhood of the Prussian left centre, neither of the armies moving an inch, and the guns incessantly belching forth a perfect hurricane of shells. The Prussian loss was considerable, but not so large as it might have been, in consequence of the action being confined more to artillery than anything else. In the evening the Prussians evacuated the suburbs of St. Julien, and retired to a position on some rising ground behind a line of woods. The French bivouacked on the field. It was evidently the intention of the French to endeavour to force the Prussian army of occupation, in order to make good their retreat towards Thionville, and relieve Metz of the fearful pressure which so large a body of troops is upon its resources; and I cannot help thinking that some troops did get through, though not very many. The Crown Prince has said that the war is seven-eighths over."

The following is another account of the conflict:—"After many skirmishes there was a perfect lull in

the last few days of August. A single shot suddenly startled us from our morning coffee on August 31. We guessed it to be a signal. We took up our position for action; and as the fog, which had been heavy from daybreak, lifted, we saw deep masses of the enemy advancing against our line. The whole of Bazaine's army, warned of MacMahon's attempt to approach, was coming on in a sortie. But our troops were also there, and every hill planted with guns. The enemy, however, got into a good position, and opened a heavy fire, in which the dull roar of the mitrailleuses was plainly distinguished. This lasted till nightfall, and there was a very heavy fight for the possession of the village of Fremy. At dark, when the fire ceased, the French had gained ground, and at half-past seven a.m. the battle recommenced. Our turn had come, for we had been too weak the day before; now we turned the enemy's flanks, and carried the woods he had got possession of. At three in the afternoon he was fairly driven back and worsted, and so Bazaine's last hope was foiled. Our Landwehr, we heard, had fought like lions, and called forth the admiration of every one."

The Prussian loss on that day was between 2,000 and 3,000 killed and wounded. The French loss is said to have been "enormous." No subsequent attempt has been made by Marshal Bazaine to get out, and there seems to be an expectation that he will soon capitulate. It is said, however, that provisions are not scarce in Metz, though fever and dysentery prevail. Heavy guns are being mounted by the besieging force.

A correspondent says:—"Never was a place so completely hemmed in as Metz. I know for a fact that for many days a reward of 500,000 francs had been offered to any one who could succeed in taking a message to the Marshal and bringing back his reply. One man very nearly performed the feat, but was taken and shot at the last moment."

TREATMENT OF FRENCH PRISONERS AT SEDAN.

"An Eye-Witness," in a letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, dated Sedan, Sept. 7, says:—"On Thursday, or rather Friday last, MacMahon's army, numbering 80,000, surrendered as prisoners of war. Can you believe that since then—a period of five full days—all the men of that army, and such of the officers as would not sign the agreement not to bear arms against Prussia during the present war, have been left out in an open field, without tents or covering of any kind, and with barely enough food to keep life in them? I heard yesterday of the wretched state these men were in, but I would not believe what was told me; so, to-day I came down here from Florenville to see and judge for myself. In a plot of meadow ground—not damp, but positively soaking wet—about as large as Trafalgar-square, 80,000 men have been huddled together like sheep since they were taken prisoners on the 2nd of this month. Of these about 20,000 have already been marched off to Germany; and to-day, whilst I was present, 10,000 men, and about 300 officers were started on their way to the railway which will take them into Prussia. But I visited them before they left, and a more deplorable scene it would be impossible to imagine. Since MacMahon's army surrendered on the 2nd of this month, not one ounce of meat has been served to them, and all they have had to live upon has been one hard biscuit per man for every two days. Amongst the officers who are prisoners I have several acquaintances and two or three friends. They assured me—and their gaunt, hungry look quite confirmed what they stated—that they were literally, not figuratively, starving. One of them, a gentleman of noble birth and of acknowledged courage, asked me if I could procure him a little bread. I ran back to my carriage, and brought with me a loaf, some slices of cold meat, and half a fowl, which I had laid in at Florenville for my luncheon during my trip. My friend—who two months ago would have declined to dine at a second-class Paris restaurant—devoured what I brought him like a famished wolf, but not before he had divided the food with his 'ordonnance,' or soldier servant. I offered to share with him the few bank-notes I had with me, but he assured me that he and all his companions had enough money for their present wants. The Prussian authorities, however, would not allow their prisoners even to purchase what they required. As for the men, they were, if possible, in a more deplorable state than the officers. They had been—as indeed their superiors had—for four days left in this open field under an almost continued downpour of rain. They had not a change of clothes. They were, not merely wet through, but as if they had been kept in water for many hours. Many were flushed with raging fever; others were suffering from all the different phases of severe bowel complaint; and hundreds could barely stand upright from rheumatic pains. But no doctor had been near them. The French medical men, who had been retained as prisoners, had been sent off to the wounded of their own army; and these poor fellows, many of them dying from sheer neglect, were left to shift for themselves as best they could. It was indeed a sad sight. I could not have believed that a Christian nation would ever behave thus to their prisoners of war. If the Prussian army were suffering from a want of supplies, those who were its captives would of course have to suffer also. But it is not so. The supplies for the Prussian army are now abundant at Sedan. The men have two good meat meals every day. The whole country has been laid under contribution by them; and, no matter how enormous the amount demanded may be, the town or village that does not supply it is given over to be pillaged by the soldiers. To-day I saw some seven thousand of the French

prisoners removed to the railway-station on their way to Prussia. The soldiers were marched off first, the officers about two hours later. Surely it would have been but commonly courteous to allow the unfortunate men to go on their way in peace! But no. They were marched off preceded by a military band playing triumphant Prussian airs, were made to march by sections, as if on parade, and even the French officers, if they lagged behind for an instant, were beaten with the but-ends of muskets, and roared at, 'Forwards, forwards!' Weak, sick, more than half-starved, as they were, and suffering from dysentery, fever, wet clothes, and rheumatism, these men—officers and soldiers alike—were hurried along the road for a march of ten miles at a pace very nearly equal to our 'double quick time' in English marching."—"A Belgian Traveller," who was at Sedan on the 5th, contradicts these statements. He says:—"I met plenty of French soldiers who belonged to MacMahon's army, and one and all declared that they were well treated by the Prussians; and, to use their own expression, 'Ils n'étaient pas si méchants qu'on le leur avait fait croire.' The villages of La Chapelle and Gironne, through which I passed, were full of wounded of both nations, who were very often mixed in the same ambulances. These are the very words of a French soldier: 'Ils nous traitent fort bien, si nous sériens leurs frères ils ne pourraient faire mieux.' As for accusing the Prussian soldiers of plundering, it is unfair to charge a well-behaved army with the misdeeds of camp followers and other thieves, who can and do plunder the houses the inhabitants of which have fled. In the village of Chassy I saw the commanding officer go up to a batch of French prisoners, and ask them in French if they had been well taken care of; and all of them declared they were satisfied. While I was at Gemelle (Belgium) I met several French officers, who said that, while prisoners at Sedan, they had been for thirty-six hours without food—adding, however, that the Prussians were themselves without food at the time."

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

It is announced that the Crown jewels have been sent out of Paris to a place of safety.

A French squadron, consisting of four large iron-clads, was seen outside the Goodwin Sands on Monday morning. The ships were steaming westward.

A letter from Captain De Kouveray, in a *Namur* paper, denies the report of the death of General Faily, as he saw him on the 7th walking near Sedan.

Archbishop Ledochowski, of Posen, has issued a Pastoral to contradict rumours current in Polish districts that the war is directed against the Catholic Church.

According to the Prussian correspondent of the *Times* the French prisoners in Germany received the news of Napoleon's dethronement with great satisfaction.

As the Germans cannot afford to encumber their railways with the transport of 80,000 prisoners, the men taken at Sedan, in order to reach Germany, will have to resort to the old-fashioned expedient of using their legs.

A large white flag with a red cross in the centre, that of the Convention of Geneva for relief of the wounded, is now floating over the Pavillon de l'Horloge at the Tuileries, in token of the building being used as an ambulance.

All French officers retained as prisoners of war in Germany have been permitted to live in private lodgings and put on civilians' clothes. To secure this privilege they are only required to give their word of honour that they will not leave the places in which they have been quartered.

The wife of a carpenter at Berlin has for the third time within eight years been made a widow by the fortune of war. She married for the first time in 1861, and in 1864 her husband fell at Duppel; in 1865 she again married a carpenter, who was killed at Koniggratz in 1866; the third time she espoused a carpenter, who met his death at Rezonville.

The French have almost always been surprised at their meals by the Prussians. At Forbach they were all cooking their dinners when they were attacked, no notice having been given them of the Germans being near; and the same thing has happened in almost all the subsequent battles. The whole of the Prussian light cavalry are employed as feelers in front of their army, thus rendering a surprise impossible.

The *Opinion Nationale* says it is evident, on the testimony of documents kept at the French Foreign Office, that when M. de Gramont pronounced in the Legislative Assembly the threatening declaration which preceded the war, he had received from diplomatic agents in Germany a detailed account of the forces Prussia could bring against France—forces admirably equipped, organised, and prepared, and ready to march. These forces represented a total of 1,124,000 infantry, 130,000 cavalry—in all more than 1,200,000 soldiers, with a formidable artillery. At the same time the total of army votes for the plébiscite gave only 337,000 men for the whole of France, including the troops in Algeria. It was then with the certainty of having 337,000 fighting men to oppose to 1,200,000 Germans that the Ministers of the Empire and Napoleon III. himself declared war.

THE DEATH OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PEMBERTON.—A correspondent, writing to the *Manchester Guardian* from Florenville, says there was fighting outside the walls of Metz on the 5th. He also gives some news about the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Pemberton, the *Times* correspondent. A few minutes before he was shot Colonel Pemberton was talking to some of the Crown Prince of Saxony's Staff. He told them he thought he would go a little

nearer to the enemy, and was advised to be careful. He had only ridden about a quarter of a mile towards what he believed to be a deserted French position when he was suddenly fired upon and the bullet passed through his head. The circumstance was reported very shortly afterwards to Captain Furley, of the Society for Succouring the Wounded, who at once looked after the deceased's effects. He found that his money had already been stolen and his pockets plundered, and in the quarters which he had last occupied all that could be discovered were a few scraps of manuscript and an overcoat. Suspicion rested on a person, who was taken before the Burgomaster, but nothing could be proved against him. The gallant colonel's remains were interred between two poplar trees on the Sedan road.

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

M. Jules Favre, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has issued a circular to the French diplomatic agents abroad, in which he throws the blame of the war on the Imperial Government, and declares that France is willing to treat for a durable peace. But, he says:—

We will not cede either an inch of our territory or a stone of our fortresses. A shameful peace would mean a war of extermination at an early date. We will only treat for a durable peace. In this our interest is that of the whole of Europe, and we have reason to hope that, freed from all dynastic considerations, the question will thus present itself before the Cabinets of Europe. But should we be alone we shall not yield. We have a resolute army, well-provisioned forts, a well-established *enclave*, and, above all, the breasts of 300,000 combatants determined to hold out to the last. When they piously lay crowns at the feet of the statue of Strasbourg they do not obey merely an enthusiastic sentiment of admiration, they adopt their heroic *mot d'ordre*, they swear to be worthy of their brethren of Alsace, and to die as they have done. After the forts we have the ramparts; after the ramparts we have the barricades. Paris can hold out for three months and conquer. If she succumbs, France will start up at her appeal and avenge her. France would continue the struggle, and the aggressor would perish.

An official decree has been published convoking the electoral colleges, on the 16th October, to elect a National and Constituent Assembly. The elections will take place in accordance with the law on that subject passed March 15, 1849. The Constituent Assembly will be composed of 750 members. The preamble of the decree convoking the people in its *comitia* says:—

In proclaiming the Government of the National Defence, we have ourselves defined the object we had in view. The Executive power had fallen to the ground; what had commenced in a *coup d'état* had ended in a desertion. We have but seized again the helm which slipped from powerless hands. But Europe requires to be enlightened. It is necessary that she should know, by means of irrefragable proofs, that the whole of France is with us. It is necessary that the invader should meet on his road not only the obstacle of an immense city resolved to perish rather than surrender, but also the whole people, upstanding, well organised, and represented by an assembly capable of bearing to every place, in spite of all disasters, the living soul of the country.

It is announced that the Government for the National Defence—the official designation of the provisional authority in Paris—has relieved of their functions the ambassadors at London, Vienna, and St. Petersburg. The Marquis de Banneville, the French Ambassador at the Papal Court, has resigned. The *Sicile* asserts that MM. Louis Blanc, Ledru-Rollin, and Dugrassé, will leave shortly for London, Washington, and Berne respectively, as ambassadors of the French Republic.

A placard has been posted up in Paris, signed by MM. Blanqui, Lacambre, Pridon Brothers, Villeneuve, Regnard, Levrand, and Pilhes, which says that, "in the presence of the enemy, there must be no more parties, no more divergences of opinion. All opposition and all contradiction must disappear before the common danger. Accused be he who should now seek his own selfish ends or hold back! The undersigned put aside all private opinion, and offer the Provisional Government the most energetic and most absolute support, without reserve or condition, except the maintenance of the Republic. The undersigned have resolved to be buried beneath the ruins, rather than sign a peace dishonouring or dismembering France."

A letter of M. Rochefort has been published in all the journals, stating that at this moment all opinions ought to be silent and all citizens ought to be united against the enemy. "An odious article, headed 'Reaction,' and signed General Ciseret, being nothing else but an exhortation to civil war, has been published in the *Marseillaise* of this morning. Let me remind the public that I have now no longer any connection with the *Marseillaise*." The paper has been trampled under foot in the streets, and has ceased to exist.

On Thursday evening a deputation of 500 persons waited upon Mr. Washburne, the United States Minister in Paris, to thank him for the prompt recognition of the new French Republic by the American Government.

All the Paris theatres were closed on Thursday night.

M. Victor Hugo has issued an address to the German people, in which he urges them not to be guilty of the Vandalism of attacking Paris. He says that they have accomplished their professed object, that of overthrowing the Empire—the symbol of hatred and treason—and can therefore have no reason for continuing the war against the Republic—the symbol of sympathy and loyalty.

The *Rappel* states that the Provisional Government has determined to abolish the punishment

of death, and a decree to that effect will shortly be published.

According to the *Figaro* a projected conspiracy has been detected and foiled, but from the details given, it does not appear to have been of a very alarming character. On Thursday last the Prefet de Police received information that some former agents of the overthrown empire had arranged a plan for marching upon the Tuilleries, after having called to their aid the Garde de Paris and the garrison of the barracks in the Rue Mouffetard. The intention was to declare a new Government, which in all probability would have been a Regency. M. de Keratry made proper arrangements; it is said that several police commissaries and some fifty *ex-sergens-de-ville* were arrested. The police agents, who were employed by the late Government, and who constitute a very numerous body, have been ordered to remain at their homes, under penalty of being arrested if found in the public thoroughfares. As a justifiable measure of precaution, M. de Keratry caused the Tuilleries to be occupied by 5,000 National Guards, who were supplied with cartridges. Since Thursday all the avenues leading to the Tuilleries have been guarded in military style.

STATE OF PARIS.—PREPARATIONS.

Paris is said to have now within its walls 300,000 troops, National Guards and Garde Mobile. 100,000 of this force has just come from the departments. The Seine above and below Paris has been blocked, and is further protected by a dozen gunboats and an extensive system of torpedoes. The outlying forts are constructed to mount in all 982 pieces of artillery, and it is believed that these guns are all in their places. The *enceinte continuee* will have 1,226 pieces of artillery, besides other engines of war of a new description respecting which the Paris press, from motives of patriotism, remain silent. The command of operations upon the ramparts of the city has been entrusted to nine general officers, to each of whom absolute authority within a certain section of the fortifications will be given. The Prefet of Police has issued an order that, after six o'clock on Thursday (to-morrow) morning next, nobody will be allowed to leave or enter Paris without special official permission. A proclamation of General Trochu gives an order for burning all the woods round Paris that could afford a shelter to the enemy. It is expected that soon there will be no more gas in Paris, the works being outside the city. In the Bois de Boulogne there are 220,000 sheep and 80,000 head of cattle. The Jardin des Plantes has been converted into a cattle-park. Upwards of 3,000 oxen are collected there. The following extracts from several letters on Monday will show that the defensive condition of Paris has become very formidable:—

It seems the belief of many in England that France will ultimately have to yield territory. This may be so, but certainly not until after Paris has been besieged and taken. If any persons imagine that the present preparations making to stand a siege are mere shams, intended only to intimidate the enemy and obtain better terms, they are greatly mistaken. Whoever observes what is now passing here with an intelligent eye must be convinced that a defence will be made, and probably a stubborn one. Every day greater earnestness and determination are manifest. Drilling goes on from morning till night, and nothing is neglected that may contribute to the efficacy of the resistance which is sure to be offered.

From what I have seen to day, I am, for the first time, satisfied that Paris will defend itself to the bitter end. It is impossible to doubt the spirit of the men of whom, when the pinch comes, General Trochu will dispose.

The bearing and behaviour of Paris are every day becoming better and more promising as regards the future. Of course I am well aware that the storm, in its full fury, is not yet upon us; and no one can say what the future will bring until he has learnt how Paris will behave when shells fall in the historical *Chaussee d'Antin*—where it is supposed that, because they fell in 1814, they must necessarily fall in 1870.

It must never be forgotten that, if the spirit which animates the garrison of a besieged town be high and earnest, they fight at a great advantage against the attacking army. The manoeuvres, and the adroit manipulation of troops, which are of such essential importance when two hostile forces oppose each other in the open field, lose their value and significance when it is a question of holding an invested fortress against an aggressive onslaught. I speak with some authority when I say that General Trochu is entirely satisfied that he can hold Paris for a long time.

The change which has taken place in the defences of Paris since three weeks is really extraordinary, and too much praise cannot be bestowed on General Trochu for the Herculean labour he has accomplished. Had the Prussians come to Paris direct, as originally intended, they would have been able to take it almost as easily as Nancy. Time will show how they will fare now.

We subjoin a few extracts from letters illustrating the condition of the French capital:—

ENCAMPING OF TRAVELLERS AT THE GREAT NORTHERN STATION.—You will have heard of the crowds of passengers on the Great Northern line, but friends of mine who have seen it tell me that the crush at the stations of the Western and Southern Railways is still worse. The people rush there with all their baggage, and the railways now, though willing to take the passengers, refuse the baggage. They are short of rolling-stock, which is used for the service of the army. Some of the people who go to the station with their baggage are obliged to return contentedly, unable to stir without these impedimenta. I am told by one who saw it that at eleven o'clock last night there was a regular encampment all about the station of the South, and this, too, in the rain. There were hundreds of carriages, cabs, and vans piled with luggage. Some of them had been waiting since six o'clock that evening—five hours. People in the cabs and vans were trying to sleep—for the

doors of the station were shut against them—and they would have to make a night of it. Besides this, there were loads of luggage and furniture laid out upon the streets, and hundreds of people encamped in the open streets among their household goods. The people thus waiting had come so far—it is an out-of-the-way station—that it did not seem for most of them to be worth while to go back. "They were nearly all French," said my friend who saw them, "and of all the assemblages I ever saw this was the most miserable—wet and weary and hungry, and not knowing how long they would have to wait for the doors to open."—*Letter from Paris.*

THE CHURCH IN FRANCE AND THE REVOLUTION.—Before going home I thought I would call on a friend in orders, curé of one of the metropolitan churches, and learn his opinion on the state of things. I had not seen him for more than a month, and I am not exaggerating in saying that during this troubled period he had thinned so as to seem a different man. Usually hale and cheery, his present manner was truly pitiable. Of course his alarms were chiefly about the Church, and on this subject he spoke with something very nearly akin to despondency. A Republic in France, he affirmed, would soon bring about Republicanism in Spain and Italy, the overthrow of the Papal See, the expulsion of the Jesuits from France, and the complete severance of the Church from the State. "It means six or seven years, at the least, of untold tribulation to us priests," he said with a sigh; "and I am not sure that it would not be better in the interests of religion that the Prussians should take Paris and restore the fallen dynasty. Republicanism will be death to us." I confess to having felt some apprehension for the good man at this remark; for if it be once suspected among the people that the clergy are withholding their sympathies from the third Republic as they did from the first and second, the Church may indeed fare badly.—*Letter from Paris.*

THE PARIS POLICE.—The municipal police—the much-abhorred *sergens-de-ville*—some eight thousand strong, have, as you know, been dismissed *en bloc*. A proclamation from the Comte de Keratry, Prefet of Police, announces that the entire corps is "licencié," and that they will be replaced by a body of "Guardians of the Public Peace," who will not, as a rule, be armed, but who, in case of need, may be incorporated in the forces available for the defence of Paris, and will then be provided with the ordinary weapons of soldiers. I have little reason to speak well of the defunct *sergens-de-ville*, since they did their best or worst to get me murdered at the Poste Bonne Nouvelle, on Sunday morning last; but it must be in common justice explained that their tremendous unpopularity with the Parisians—an unpopularity which has brought about their summary dissolution by the Government of the Republic—was not wholly deserved. The ordinary members of the force were very decent fellows, pliant, quiet, and good-humoured, and on excellent terms with their neighbours. The dangerous members of the force, and those who should have been the most obnoxious, were the men of the "Brigades Centrales"—fellows selected for their size, their strength, their ferocity, and their unscrupulousness, and amongst whom were numbers of Corsicans. These, under the manipulation of the now proscribed M. Pietri, had become a corps of *sbirri*; these ran, *pari passu*, like Hippocrates' twins, with the *mouchards* and the *agents provocateurs*. The latter manufactured political plots, and denounced more or less innocent plotters. The Central Brigade men took up the running, tracked the denounced persons, and, on occasion, tripped them up, jumped on their ribs, dislocated their wrists with the lasso of cord they carried, or claved their skulls with life-preservers. The Central Brigade men were also foremost in charging riotous crowds, or getting up a riot when none was contemplated, but when the suppression of one was required by the authorities. In these charges their *serres-poings*, or screw-wrists, and their *casse-têtes*, or knuckle-dusters, have been of service, time out of mind, to that Imperial régime which may be said to have been an organised system of Bread, Shows, Cudgels, and Cayenne.—*Letter in Telegraph.*

PARIS ON SUNDAY.—The weather has been splendid all day, and therefore favourable for the Prussians, but this fact has not prevented the Parisians from turning out in tens of thousands to enjoy the bright sun and visit the encampments which run along the exterior boulevards. The Champs Elysées are crowded as they were on the last fête-day but one of the ex-Emperor, when the people of this and other cities swarmed out to do honour to the centenary of the Great Napoleon. All our theatres are closed, our dancing saloons and singing cafés, but guignol survives the general wreck, and crowded audiences, composed for the most part of soldiers and children, applauded the Gallic Punch and Judy, just as if King William were at Potsdam and Count Bismark a myth. We have read, however, that the *débris* of the Old Guard which accompanied Napoleon to Elba was desperately discontented on Sundays not to have its guignol—was so bored, in fact, that their fallen chief at length determined to return to Paris. The Place de la Concorde is also crowded with citizens and their wives trying to sign their names in the register which has been established at the foot of the statue of Strasbourg. The register, when filled, is to be handsomely bound, and presented to the town of Strasbourg in memorial of its gallant defence. The colossal statue is superabundantly adorned with flags, flowers, and coloured lanterns, and as I passed by it just now a small boy was arranging more bouquets in the lap of the popular idol, which were being hoisted up to him at the point of the bayonet. There is an almost total

absence of carriages, which denotes the departure of the wealthy, and the dust is flying about in a manner which leads to the belief that the city has already begun to be sparing of its water. There are many uniforms in the streets, regulars, moblots, and National Guards, the moblots from the provinces being strangely accoutred and badly set up. Before next Sunday the fate of this city will probably have been decided for the King of Prussia. Although Victor Hugo has come here with two of his grandchildren, "one at the breast," the enemy is advancing with rapid strides; still Paris is spending this Sabbath as pleasantly as it can. To be sure, a good many desperate people are said to have mined their houses, and a lady, writing from a distance, recommends that the inhabitants of Paris should guarantee themselves from Prussian shells by destroying the upper stories. The rubbish, adds this patriotic woman, left on the top of the houses would preserve the lower apartments. However, extreme measures are not general, though it is now officially announced that the woods round Paris are to be sacrificed, lest the enemy should turn them to account.—*Letter in the Pall Mall Gazette.*

PACIFIC RUMOURS.

A telegram from Paris, dated Monday morning, says:—"It is stated that yesterday evening at the last moment the departure of certain members of the Government for Tours was indefinitely postponed. The *Gaulois* says that the diplomatic body have also postponed their departure. It is officially announced that M. Thiers will leave this evening on a mission to London, afterwards proceeding to St. Petersburg and Vienna. This step is being taken in consequence of information received by the Ministry."

Another telegram of Monday, late at night, is less favourable:—"The neutral Powers have not abandoned their efforts to bring about a suspension of hostilities, but all hope of any successful result is abandoned."

The *Echo* understands that on Saturday the Government received a proposal from M. Jules Favre, the new Foreign Minister of France, addressed to Count Bismarck, for an armistice, and that Lord Granville, acting as intermediary, has forwarded this note to the Prussian headquarters. It is not correct, as stated by *Le Gaulois*, that England has demanded an armistice on behalf of the neutral Powers. England has acted in this matter as the Power which accepted the charge of French interests when the ambassador of France withdrew from Berlin. But we believe that in forwarding the note of M. Favre to Count Bismarck, Lord Granville has not failed to express the desire which is felt in England for the restoration of peace.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on Monday night, says:—

"The Prussian terms of peace are now said to be these three:—

"1. Five milliards of francs (200,000,000*l.*) indemnity.

"2. The cession of half the French fleet.

"3. The entry of the Prussian army into, and the signature of a treaty of peace in, Paris.

"The first two conditions present no great difficulties. The French would willingly pay a money indemnity, and the exact amount would be a mere matter of bargain through which a middle term could easily be reached. Nor would they make any difficulty about the fleet, for whatever may happen, when once peace is re-established they will no longer endure the charges necessary to keep up a large fleet any more than they will endure an enormous standing army. The third condition, however, will never be so much as listened to till the Prussians have won their way into the capital by sheer force of arms, and the chances of successful resistance increase with every hour."

THE DEMANDS OF GERMANY.

After confidential exchange of opinion between the principal German Governments, it seems probable that Alsace and Lorraine, if annexed, will be placed under the central Government of Germany, without being handed over to any one German Sovereign individually.

A portion of Lorraine having been placed under the Prussian Governor of Alsace, the territory under his jurisdiction now includes all the districts the cession of which will be probably demanded by the Prussian Government. The western frontier of this territory begins at Etzack, on the borders of Luxembourg, and flanking the Moselle at about ten miles distance from its western banks, crosses the river at Corny, half-way between Metz and Pont-à-Mousson, whence it follows the course of the Moselle and Meurthe at about ten miles distance from their eastern banks as far as Mount Döron. Its south-western frontier is that of the Departments of the Haut Rhin and Bas Rhin. It comprehends all Alsace and the following north-eastern arrondissements of Lorraine—Saarburg, Saargemünd, Metz, Thionville, and Château-Salins.

THE NEUTRAL POWERS.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 9th discusses M. Jules Favre's circular in an article, of which the following is an extract:—"The French Government carries the Prætorian virtue too far when, even for the sake of a peace that would put an end to a war of extermination, it refuses to sacrifice fortresses that have not prevented Paris being exposed to a siege. Germany has seen that M. Jules Favre was not able to prevent war when the nation enthusiastically sanctioned it; and she will now probably require a lasting guarantee for the results of heroic victories. In conclusion, we must say we do not understand how right and justice can now be

said to be on the side of France, when M. Jules Favre maintained the opposite a month ago. We trust Europe will possess sufficient influence to secure a lasting peace."

A correspondent of the *Daily News* at St. Petersburg says:—"In an article on the forces of Russia, in the *Golos*, the country is declared to be now entirely ready for war. I am informed, on good authority, that the Government can put in the field at once 500,000 men perfectly equipped. A hundred more Gatling guns have been ordered in America, making 210 in all, and 200 mitrailleuses are being made here, to be ready this autumn. They are to be formed into batteries of four guns in time of peace, and eight guns in war, and one battery will be attached to each division of infantry. Don Carlos, the Spanish Pretender, arrived here two days ago, with the Marquis de la Romana, General Elio, and Senor Calderon, and is at Klee's Hotel. Nobody knows what he wants. I have just been shown some telegrams from the battle-field from the King of Prussia to the Emperor Alexander, which show that the two Sovereigns are on the most cordial terms."

It is said that the King of Denmark thought from the outset that Prussia would be successful, and having obtained a promise from Count Bismarck that if Denmark would remain neutral the fortress of Düppel would be demolished and North Schleswig restored, he determined not to risk anything by a departure from his neutral attitude.

A Berlin telegram says:—"There is reason to think that the proclamation of a Republic in France and the determined attitude of Prussia have shaken the intention of Russia to propose the convocation of a Congress. The Austrian War Office, after learning the capture of Napoleon, has suspended the purchase of horses."

The French Republic was promptly recognised by General Grant, and there is a considerable change of feeling in America.

A Berlin telegram says:—"Whatever instructions, if any, Mr. Bancroft may have received from Washington, his action has been left entirely to his discretion. He has not tendered the mediation of the United States, and the Government at Washington has no intention of doing so. The Cabinet of Berlin has addressed a letter to Mr. Washburne at Paris, warmly thanking him for his good offices on behalf of the Germans expelled from France."

THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

The Emperor arrived at Wilhelmshöhe, near Cassel, the residence assigned to him by King William, on Monday week, by rail. Assembled there were the staff officers of the troops garrisoned here, who had been left behind for the organisation of the troops of reserve. A German correspondent writes:—"When the train stopped the Emperor alighted, and passed in the front of the officers lining the station, while he uncovered his head and went to General Plonaki's carriage, which conveyed him to Wilhelmshöhe, ten minutes' drive off. The Emperor looked earnest, but not broken down, and, as far as I may judge—I was standing five paces from his carriage—his countenance was quite different from that given by *Kladderadatsch*. There were no signs of an extravagant *embonpoint*, nor of that illness which he is said to be suffering from. On leaving the carriage the Emperor went up to the right wing of the company, which presented arms, and passed in front, several times taking off his cap, saluting them. The demeanour and behaviour of the people present were beyond all praise. When the Emperor came in sight there was not heard a single sound. You might almost have heard the leaf falling down from the tree, as a German adage says; and in the same silence reigning everywhere he left the station." The Emperor Napoleon is attended at Wilhelmshöhe by Generals Douay and Lebrun. The utmost attention is paid to him. The Queen has sent her chief cook to Wilhelmshöhe. The Emperor has taken with him no less than sixty horses.

The following is now given as a true account of the flight of the Empress from the Tuileries:—"The Empress found herself alone with her old and trusty secretary and friend, Madame de Breton, and with M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, who both earnestly urged her to fly at once. But her high spirit made this a most unpalatable counsel. It was a cowardice—*une lâcheté*—to desert the palace. She would rather be treated as was Marie Antoinette by the mob, than seek safety in an unworthy flight. For a time all persuasion was useless, but at length Her Majesty's mood calmed somewhat, and she saw the utter uselessness of remaining. Attended only by the two companions we have named, the Empress fled through the long gallery of the Louvre; but suddenly her course was stopped short by a locked door. The little party could distinctly hear the shouts of the crowds who were invading the private gardens of the Tuileries. M. de Lesseps, to gain time, proposed that he should go out on the terrace and get the soldiers on guard to hold back the people for a few minutes, while in addition he would delay the crowds by addressing them. The resort to this expedient was not necessary. Madame de Breton found the key, opened the door that had obstructed their progress, and gave egress to Her Majesty—who, accompanied only by her tried friend, issued into the street at the bottom of the Louvre. There they hurriedly entered a common *fiacre*, not without a risk of detection on the spot; for a diminutive *gamin de Paris*, not more than twelve years old, shouted, '*Voilà l'Impératrice!*' Luckily, no one about heard or heeded him; and the cab got safely away with the two ladies. They drove to M. de Lesseps' house, in the Boulevard de Malesherbes, where the Empress sat until she was joined by M. de Metternich, who

did what he could to facilitate her departure to a place of safety. Without luggage of any kind, and in a plain carriage, she left Paris and drove to the port of Deauville, near Trouville. But even here means had to be sought for reaching England. Fortunately for the fugitive, the *Gazelle* cutter lay in the harbour, and was to sail on the following day for England with Sir John and Lady Burgoyne. Lady Burgoyne had arrived on board that evening from Switzerland, but the yacht, with Sir John on board, had been lying some ten days in the harbour waiting Lady Burgoyne's arrival from Switzerland, which had necessarily been much delayed by the present state of things on the continent. The first intimation Sir John Burgoyne received that other persons wished to cross to England in the *Gazelle* with Lady Burgoyne was a few hours before the time appointed for the *Gazelle* to weigh her anchor, when the Empress presented herself, announced her rank and difficult position, and claimed his protection as an English gentleman. There had been no suspicion by Sir John Burgoyne of the Empress's presence or intended presence in the port. Under such unexpected conditions he acted as an Englishman would act. Lady Burgoyne was introduced to the Empress, who became her guest for the voyage across the Channel. It was not, however, before her time, which had already been fixed—viz., at seven o'clock on the succeeding morning, the 7th inst., that the *Gazelle* gave signs of leaving harbour for England, and then, with a large British ensign flying from her peak, she sailed leisurely out of the harbour in charge of a French pilot. At 7.30 a.m. the pilot was discharged, and the *Gazelle* stood across Channel for England. For thirty miles from the French land the little cutter had a fair wind, but then the wind suddenly chopped round to the N.W., and the remainder of the voyage was made under a three-reefed mainsail, foresail, and storm jib in the teeth of a fresh gale. The *Gazelle*'s seamen knew nothing of the Empress of the French being aboard, but they may probably have made shrewd guesses among themselves relative to her rank. However that may have been, no man left the deck during the night's work across, and every one seemed anxious to shorten the distance between the two lands as much as possible. The *Gazelle* completed her voyage across Channel by dropping anchor in Ryde Roads at 3.35 a.m. on Thursday. After landing at Ryde from the *Gazelle* the Empress crossed by steamer to Portsmouth, and proceeded to Hastings to join the Prince Imperial, by the South Coast Railway and Brighton. Her Majesty has been visited by several distinguished French families who have arrived from Paris within the past few days. The Empress and her son are expected soon to visit Torquay."

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"I hear that the Empress has sent to Paris for some linen and other necessities. The poor lady left the Tuileries in the very lightest marching order."

Twenty-three horses and two carriages have arrived in England from Antwerp for the use of the Prince Imperial.

It is a somewhat singular fact that many years ago, when the ex-Emperor, the Prince Imperial's father, was a refugee in this country, he resided for a short time at Pelham Cottage, which immediately adjoins the Marine Hotel, now occupied by his son. The chamber in which the father slept is separated only by the partition wall from that in which the son now sleeps.

M. Rouher, his daughter and son-in-law, are in England; as are also the Duke de Gramont, M. Jerome David, Mdme. Canrobert, the Duke of Persigny, M. Baroche, the Duke and Duchess de Mouchy, and the Princess de Metternich.

It is stated in the Paris journals that the correspondence of the Imperial Family of France has been seized on the frontier. On the ground that these letters belong to history, the Minister of the Interior has appointed a commission to classify and prepare them for publication.

Some of the papers have a paragraph stating that the Duke of Hamilton has placed Brodrick Castle, in the Isle of Arran, at the disposal of the Prince Imperial and the Empress Eugénie. The story of Brasted Park, Sevenoaks, having been purchased for the same purpose is authoritatively contradicted by the owner.

Proofs of the Emperor's bravery and activity continue to be furnished. A correspondent writes:—"Where was the Emperor during yesterday's battle? I asked M. Caumont. 'For several hours towards the end of the action,' he replied, 'he stood behind a battery and pointed guns himself.' It is stated that for days after the disaster of Woerth the Emperor sat silent and immovable."

Prince Napoleon has at last left Florence. He has assumed the title of Count of Moncalieri. He met at Turin the Princess Clotilde.

Prince Pierre Bonaparte writes to the *Indépendance Belge* with reference to his late interview with the Emperor—"The sob of Prince Pierre exist only in your correspondent's imagination. I have no need to impart my impressions to the public; but I leave to the effeminate and to persons who resemble them the resource of tears. I have more manly habits. Have people seen me sob in any of the hard trials I have undergone? Friends and enemies know the contrary."

The *Standard* says there is no foundation whatever for the report that the Princess Mathilde has been arrested. The statement that the Princess was arrested whilst a guest of M. Dumas, and that her luggage was seized, is a simple invention. On the same authority we are told that M. Pietri has arrived safely in this country.

THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

Her Majesty the Queen, who at the first contributed 500*l.* to the fund, has now graciously become the Patroness of the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War. The total subscriptions to the society exceed 140,000*l.*, and money continues to pour in. The German Society has received about 35,000*l.*, and the French Society between 3,000*l.* and 4,000*l.*

Not only has a sum of about 5,000*l.* been raised in Liverpool alone towards the relief of the sick and wounded French and Prussian soldiers, but the whole of the amount collected has been a spontaneous offering, pressed, as might be said, upon the mayor and treasurer, who never in any case solicited a subscription through any source, but merely received the sums sent in voluntarily. Those who are connected with the movement state that the Roman Catholic body have sent nothing towards the fund intended to aid the sufferers of both belligerents.

Societies for the sick and wounded have been formed in every town of any size in Scotland. Glasgow alone has already contributed nearly 4,000*l.*; and other places, in proportion to their means, have been equally liberal.

Mr. Richard Wallace, the inheritor of the great wealth of the late Marquis of Hertford, emulating the munificence of Mr. Peabody, has given 12,000*l.* to found an ambulance for the French army, which is to be called "The Ambulance of the late Marquis of Hertford."

The Archbishop of Canterbury has sent a letter to the Bishop of London, who is Dean of the Province of Canterbury, ordering a general offertory in aid of the fund for the sick and wounded.

One of the volunteer doctors who has arrived from Gravelotte gives a vivid description of the miseries of that place and the villages around. The desperately wounded men are lying on straw, littered down on the floors of the deserted houses and out-buildings. The devoted nurses, male and female, who attend them dress the wounded three or four times a day, stooping over them in the most painful positions, for there are no seats, and to kneel upon the sodden floors drenched with all that runs from the men is impossible. To clean these floors there are no brooms, no cloths, and there is no soap or water even to wash the sufferers. Darkness comes on and there are no candles, no matches, and the brave men, French and German, who have given their best blood for their country, weep and tremble at the thought of dying in the dark.

The following is from a letter dated Florenville, September 6th, to Colonel Loyd Lindsay:—"I heard last night that there were very many wounded towards Sedan to whom no assistance had yet been given. Accompanied by Mr. Loyd, I left Pouzy at daybreak this morning, in a cart of the country, hoping to find some wounded whom we might like to take to Douzy. On our arrival at Bagville we heard that the wants of the poor suffering heroes of the last battles, near Sedan, were very great indeed, and in a chateau, close to Bagville, we found about 1,600 lying upon straw, in every stage of distress and suffering. Many were dying, and so ending their wretched hardships. The whole village is burnt and quite deserted. There were only two surgeons to relieve all the sufferers within and around those walls. I had taken a cask of Huntley and Palmer's biscuits, some chocolate, cigars, and wine mixed in buckets of water. Very many of the poor wounded had had nothing to eat or drink since the morning of the day before, and their eyes sparkled at even these slight attempts at comfort, some closing them in the long sleep of death almost as I moistened their lips. Mr. Loyd relieved many a suffering warrior. The villages are deserted, the inhabitants fled, and money will buy nothing out of the Belgian frontiers in this direction. The distress is terrible, wounded men being days and days without attention to their wounds. I have come to Florenville to charge the carts with the stores sent out by the society from England, and to buy all the bread and eggs I can procure, and other provisions, and I start immediately to take them to Bagville, and the other villages where they are so much wanted, after which I shall return for more, and endeavour soon to tell you the wants of Sedan."

The following is an extract from a letter of Dr. Laseon, Director of the Evangelical Deaconesses' Institution and Training Hospital, Tottenham, who has just returned from the seat of war, for the purpose of obtaining fresh stores:—"It would be too painful a task for me to describe the condition of the fields where the battles before Metz were fought. Graves four feet deep, containing from ten to thirty, and even more, dead; horses by hundreds but half buried; and this over a field not less than twelve to fifteen English miles in length. Our Sisters were received as good angels sent from God, for they at once set about to wash and dress these poor wounded men, and the shirts and sheeting which the kind liberality of our English friends had provided were thankfully received. Indeed, when I went round to the soldiers and told them that we came from England, they begged me to thank them on their behalf. The copies of the German *British Workman* were eagerly received and read, and also the Scripture tracts which I had taken for the soldiers' perusal. A word about the hospital where our Sisters are situated. This is a large barn belonging to the Castle (Schloss) in the village, and holds about 100 patients. Forty lie in the threshing floor, and thirty in the straw loft, and thirty-two in the stables. There is plenty to do for our Sisters, and for many more, but they must not be amateurs who have been two or three weeks only in a hospital. The latter may be of service in the lighter cases beyond Saarbrück, but

all the cases lying in France need skilful and practised hands, the wounds being all of a serious character."

A special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, writing from Bouillon, in Belgium, complains that the agents of the International Society are not doing their duty. He says:—"In every town and at every hotel of every town I have visited during the last two months, there are many of these ambulance gentlemen taking their ease, and doing nothing whatever of the work which they volunteered to do. For instance, here, near Bouillon, there is a village called Givonne, on the road to Sedan, and about three miles from the latter place. At Givonne there are perhaps two hundred and eighty or three hundred wounded. Of these one hundred or so are Prussians. They have their own military ambulances, their own military surgeons, and everything admirably arranged. Their army came into the campaign fully prepared to take care of all their wounded. The French came, as usual, trusting to chance or to Providence, and having really no hospital establishments whatever of their own. At Givonne they blindly trusted, as they seem to have done in everything during this war, to the good offices of others. The International Society is expected to take charge of their wounded, but it does not do so. If I have seen one member of the International Society hanging about the hotels at Sedan, Charleville, Bouillon, Francheville, and other places, during the last few days, I must have seen a round hundred. Even now, as I write, some eight or nine are chattering away on the steps of the hotel. I have only been here twenty-four hours, but in that time three ambulance wagons of the International Society have passed through—always spending a night at the hotel—laden with everything that can make the lot of the wounded less horrible than it would otherwise have been. But to the wounded they do not hasten. At Givonne the wounded are all in the church. They are lying upon damp straw. They have nothing to eat, no medicine, no medical comforts, no beds, nothing that can help in any way to their recovery. The only medical assistance the French wounded get is from the already overworked zealous and anxious Prussian doctors, and from the two still more overworked medical men, civilians of Bouillon. A more painful, and, considering the immense amount of money subscribed for this charity, a more unnecessary scene I never witnessed. The Sisters of Charity, whether French or German, are, as usual, all that can be desired. What wonderful women these are! They indeed do, and talk not. But I am thankful that few of those mixed up with the management of the concern here are Englishmen. They are chiefly Frenchmen, Parisians, who, with well-cut velvet coats, beautifully fitting gaiters over their trousers, neat caps upon which the red cross is sewed, armlets with the same sign, wonderful haversacks and drinking cups strung round them, take to work as they would to a pleasant picnic. They visit now and then the ambulances of the towns—the ambulances established by the local authorities—and which are really doing good work. But they—our Parisian friends in the admirably made gaiters—always complain that in the town where they are there is nothing to be done, and they are going a little further on. How is it that four or five of their ambulances have passed over this road, and have left the two hundred wounded men at Givonne to die of starvation and want? The International Society in Aid of the Wounded is no doubt an excellent charity, but, like many other charities, it has been greatly abused."

Another special correspondent of the *Telegraph*, at Metz, also brings charges against the much-vaunted *Juanita Corps*:—"This corps is composed of gentlemen, many of whom have served in the army, but the greater number of them are civilians who have undergone their three years' regulation service. In order to qualify a gentleman to become a *Juanita*, he must be able to show fourteen quarters upon his coat of arms, and an unblemished descent of many years; he is then entitled to wear a white enamelled Maltese cross, suspended by a green ribbon to his neck, and a uniform of the same description as the Prussian infantry, except that the buttons have a Maltese cross upon them, and the white badge with the red cross is worn upon the left arm. Under the care of these gentlemen, for the purpose of distribution, are placed all the medical comforts—wine, provisions, and bedding—that are sent by individuals or communities for the use of the sick and wounded, and without a special order from them none of these things can be taken even by medical men. Now, I am not going to say that all are alike; but the conduct of these gentlemen, for the most part, is beneath contempt. They live upon the fat of the land; they never know what it is to want a meal, and they take care it is a good one. The medical staff are continually at loggerheads with them because they cannot get what has been sent out for the special benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers. They are always in the best quarters, and never where they are wanted. I sincerely trust that some of them may have the opportunity of reading these lines, for I am only expressing the opinions of their own countrymen. There are, however, I am happy to say, some noble exceptions. There is not a Prussian officer or soldier who will not bear witness to the unceasing efforts of Prince Reuss. He is here, there, and everywhere, and his simple and unobtrusive, though earnest behaviour has won the admiration of everybody."

THE ENGLISH WORKING CLASSES AND THE WAR.

Mr. Edmond Beales presided on Saturday night over a great public meeting in St. James's Hall, "to give effect to the views of British workmen on the

present disastrous war." Resolutions were passed hailing the restoration of the French Republic as being calculated to secure to Europe the blessings of permanent peace, urging the people of France to make every honourable endeavour to obtain peace, and inviting all civilised and Christian peoples to insist upon the abolition of standing armies, and the settlement by arbitration of all international disputes.

There was a Republican demonstration in Hyde Park on Saturday afternoon, over which Mr. George Odger presided. An "Address of the Workmen of England to the People of France" was adopted. It congratulated the French on having "swept away a cruel, dishonest, and tyrannical dynasty," and in recalling the declaration of the King of Prussia, that he was not fighting against France, but against the Emperor Napoleon, the address expressed a hope that the King would not break a pledge so solemnly given. A resolution was also passed requesting the British Government at once to acknowledge the French Republic, to insist upon an armistice, and to propose a settlement of the war by impartial arbitration.

At a crowded meeting held in the Birmingham Town-hall on Monday, resolutions were adopted expressing gratification at the establishment of a Republic in France; urging the continuance and strengthening of the cordial alliance which has so long existed between the French and English people, and expressing a hope that the Provisional Government may soon be able to obtain an honourable peace which will for ever unite in friendship the two great peoples of Germany and France. A resolution was also adopted urging the Government to recognise the French Republic.

A meeting of "representative working men" was held last night at Arundel Hall, to make arrangements for another meeting to be held in St. James's Hall, to obtain an expression of opinion of the London working classes respecting the continuance of the present war. Mr. Edmond Beales presided. After the formal business had been transacted, the chairman said he looked forward with great hope to this meeting, for he believed that it would have a wide influence, not only with the contending parties, but with the English Government, who, he had reason to believe, was anxious to ascertain the feelings of the people. But for the meeting to have this good influence, the speakers must be guardedly impartial towards both parties in the war, or, instead of doing good, great harm would result. Mr. Odger said he was sure the speakers would speak in the spirit of brotherhood to both peoples, the spirit in which the meeting was called.

THE RIFLES SENT TO FRANCE.

With regard to Mr. Muntz's statement that no rifles had been made at Birmingham for France, Mr. Pollaky writes:—"I also made inquiries, and find that 227 cases, containing 4,540 Sniders (each rifle fitted with bayonet), have been received at Southampton Docks from Birmingham, which said rifles were despatched by steamer *Fannie* for Havre on the night of the 6th inst." Mr. Muntz rejoins that he only referred to Count de Palikao's statement, and not to what may have occurred since.

The *Daily News* understands that M. Chassepot, the inventor, is at Birmingham, under the name of Mr. Jacob, examining rifles and putting his stamp on the cases. For every Snider rifle 400 cartridges are demanded. Several gunmaking establishments have orders from the French Government; all the guns have to pass "Mr. Jacob's" inspection, and but for the scarcity of the real Boxer cartridge—the only one accepted—a large number would be shipped off. There are several parcels of guns ready, but awaiting cartridges. Up to the present time 1,000 Chassepots have been sent off to France, and about 6,000 Sniders.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF SEDAN.—It was now evening, about six o'clock; the firing all around had pretty well ceased, why we could not tell, till about seven we heard the King had so directed. About three there was a similar pause, which lasted about half an hour. I took advantage of it to go forward over the open ground in front towards the woods, which I thought the French had left. In a little hollow over which my Bavarians had twice passed, by a willow tree (the only sign of vegetation around), I found some eight or ten wounded men, five French, the rest Germans. With my little stock of bandages and my flask I did what I could for the poor fellows, but before I could return the firing recommenced. The bullets and balls whistled and hummed over me and around me, and patted or thudded the ground close to my feet. I crept under the slender shelter of my willow stump, and sat down among my wounded friends. I thought that half-hour would never end. The wounded Frenchmen groaned dreadfully. The Germans, equally badly wounded, were more quiet and less complaining. This I found, too, in the hospitals. I think the French are more tenderly made. It was miserable to see so much misery I could do so little to relieve. I laid this one on his back, with his knapsack for a pillow, turned this one on his side, covered another's head with a cloth to shelter it from the burning sun, put a bit of shirt on this man's wound, unbuttoned the throttling coat of another, took off the boot from the wounded foot of another, gave all a little cognac, then sat me down with my friends and talked with them. How grateful they were! How polite, in the midst of all his sufferings, one poor French soldier! And, most touching of all, how kindly helpful the poor fellows were one to another, French and German alike! "But, Monsieur," asked one poor Frenchman,

"are the Prussians Christians?" "Certainly," said I. I knew he was thinking of those heathen Turoos of his. "Then," said my poor friend, breathing heavily (he was badly wounded in the chest), "why do we kill one another?" "Oh," I replied, "for the sake of Emperors and Kings. Don't you know the rest of us were made for them?" But he didn't seem to accept this. I interpreted him to his German neighbours, and the fire having slackened I left them to seek the bearers to carry them off. The one question each asked was, "Tell me, tell me, shall I die?" I am not a doctor, so I took refuge in a hope for each; but how some live a minute I cannot tell. One poor fellow, a Bavarian, had been struck down by a bullet just between the eyes, leaving a clean hole as large as a fourpenny piece. He was lying on his back, yet I saw him raise himself deliberately on his elbow, and heard him distinctly ask me for water. I gave it him. He drank it, said, "Thank you, thank you," and lay down again. In the evening, when the fire again drew slack, I brought back bearers with stretchers, and carried off all my poor friends to the field hospital. I would not judge where I am so ignorant, but I must say I think the field ambulances and the doctors stay far too much in the rear, and the bearers—soldiers employed for the express purpose—decline to expose themselves to any considerable danger in carrying off the field wounded men whose lives may hang on the hours they are left unattended. Moreover, they habitually leave the wounded to strip the dead, especially if the dress be an officer's, and the pockets promise gain. I shall not attempt to describe the sights around me of dead and wounded. The battle was over; my flask was empty; my rags were used. I could do no more. I trudged back to Remilly. I forgot my hunger and weariness, for food I had none. I thought little of Napoleon or the King; of the valley shut in gloomily by the hills, lighted partly by the grey reflection from the flooded river, partly by the flames of four burning villages. I thought only of my eight or ten men in the hollow under the tree, and my heart choked and my eyes swam as I repeated the poor fellow's curious question, "Are the Prussians Christians? Then, why do we kill one another?" I stumbled back to Remilly, through Bazailles, now burning so fiercely, I could hardly get through; over the pontoon bridge, through the Bavarian bivouacs, on the meadows by the river side. They were singing everywhere, "God save the Queen" to a favourite German patriotic song about a victor's wreath. I knew dimly we had won, but what the extent of our victory—whether we had taken Sedan—that I didn't know, and at the time didn't much care.—*An English M.P.*

BAZAILLES SET ON FIRE.—HORRIBLE SCENE.—A correspondent of the *Times* gives an account of how the town or village of Bazailles, near Sedan, was fired, and how the inhabitants, with all they possessed, perished in the flames. He says:—"The fight begun outside the town was, no doubt, desperately contested by the French, who must have retired through the belt of wood till they were forced back into the village streets. And it must have been at this crisis that there occurred one of the most deplorable incidents of modern warfare. I understand that the French troops, consisting principally of Marines and Gardes Mobiles, in contesting the possession of the place, got into the houses as they retired, and fired upon the enemy from the windows, and the contest became one of almost unparalleled fury. The French, who are said on this occasion to have surpassed their former deeds of valour, were evidently determined to do anything rather than surrender, and the German obstinacy and perseverance would appear to have been equally decided. When the contest was at its hottest, the town was suddenly and simultaneously fired in a hundred places. There can be no doubt that there will be bitter arguing and cross swearing about this event for many a day to come. The German story is that the villagers fired upon the wounded and upon the surgeons who were tending them, and that the order to burn the place was given as a just and obvious reprisal. The French people in the town appear to deny this with great indignation, and aver that neither by the troops nor by the villagers were the wounded or the surgeons fired upon. But I heard a German gentleman connected with one of the ambulances assert that he saw with his own eyes a wounded man and one of his bearers fired upon and killed by some of the villagers. The appearance of the town—I have called it indifferently town and village, for though it had only a population of little over 3,000, the stamp and substantiality of many of the houses, as far as one could judge, were more that of a town than of a village; the appearance of the place I cannot better describe than by saying that it looked as if one great thunderbolt had fallen upon and in one moment destroyed it utterly. The human bodies had by this time been removed from the street, but the charred remains of helmets and shakos, and the stocks of rifles, with every here and there swords and bayonets and every sort of weapon, showed that while the flames were raging all round them, and the helpless women and children were literally being roasted alive in the houses and in the streets, the maddened combatants did not cease from the battle, but died, no doubt, in numbers, hemmed in by the flames while they were fighting. It is almost impossible to realise that such things can have occurred in this age of civilisation, and that humanity and civilisation and Christianity should be disgraced by horrors that seem the very outcome of hell. It is like an evil dream; but it is to be hoped these terrible events will leave the world wiser for the future. Hundreds of the people betook themselves to the cellars, it is said, and there perished of suffocation.

Nowhere could there have appeared an asylum for the miserable people—raging flames and suffocating smoke inside their houses, and outside falling walls and roofs, and men like fiends incarnate fighting amid the flames and the blazing wreck. I walked about through the dreary streets. Here and there wretched old men and women were hanging about the ruins of their homes in a sort of stupor, apparently. Some of them were weeping and sobbing. 'I have lived sixty-six years in this town,' one poor old fellow said to me; 'I was away from home when this occurred, and now I don't know whether any of my family are left to me or whether they are not all buried in there,' pointing to the ruins of his house. Every now and then, almost, as it appeared, at regular intervals, there was the crushing sound of falling masonry. We kept as much as possible in the centre of the streets. For an hour or so we walked about; the scenes were simply repeated in every house and in every street. The smell from the burning flesh of cattle, which we saw still on fire in the byres and stables, was offensive and overpowering, and we were not sorry to turn our backs on a scene of desolation and horror which must be almost without a parallel in history."

THE FRENCH BATTLE AT DOUZY.—What was really going on in the French camp of De Failly when the Bavarians broke in upon it was an inspection of arms. The only French corps engaged on Tuesday, the 30th, throughout the day was that of De Failly; but, as the bulk of MacMahon's army heard the firing from Douzy, it seems improbable that no supports were sent to the scene of action; and I fancy it was a division, or rather two divisions, sent in support of De Failly, which the 1st Bavarian Army Corps attacked and drove before it at about six, and from six to eight o'clock on the evening of Tuesday, the 30th of August. It is of no use blaming General De Failly in particular. He is only one of many. The proceedings of MacMahon himself, and of all the principal commanders under him, have for some time before the last great disaster been marked by simple fatuity. Destined to be destroyed, they certainly went mad beforehand. On leaving the Camp of Chalons to effect the much-talked-of junction with Marshal Bazaine, who, by some means or other, was certainly informed of the plan conceived for his liberation, it does not seem to have occurred to MacMahon that the Prussians would follow him. Not one only, but a dozen French officers, speaking on this subject, have said to me, "How were we to know? We thought the King and the Crown Prince were marching on Paris." So they were. The King's headquarters moved on Saturday, the 27th of August, from Bar-le-Duc to Révigny, which was still in the direction of Chalons. But on Sunday they moved northwards to Clermont—MacMahon was being followed without having the least suspicion of the fact. On Monday they were at Grand Pré; on Tuesday at Buzancy, taking possession of camps in the neighbourhood which the French had just quitted; and on Tuesday, early in the afternoon, the Bavarians of the army, commanded by the Crown Prince of Saxony, were at the back of the wood which skirts the road running from the Buzancy La Besace road to Beaumont. Prussian and Saxon troops were on the right of the town, ready to turn the right—soon, on the attack being made, to become the left—of De Failly's corps; and all the armies which ultimately crushed the French at Sedan were prepared to crush them at this moment and already held them in their grasp. The French, however, still neglected to take the most ordinary precautions, and if De Failly and his generals were negligent at Beaumont, Ducroc and others were almost criminal at Douzy, where, instead of hurrying on to Carignan, whence they were to have marched to Montmédy, and ultimately from Montmédy to Metz, they actually stopped to give a ball. "What could possibly make you give a ball at such a moment as that?" I said to a colonel of General Ducroc's corps, who had excited my astonishment by telling me what is now a notorious fact. "We gave a ball," he answered, "because a number of young ladies had come to see us from Sedan." To such reasoning as that there is, of course, no reply.—*Correspondent of the Times.*

DARING FEAT.—One feat of the Prussian horse was told me, which is worth recording. A patrol came to a station on the road to Rheims, and saw a train just leaving. There was an engine steaming away, and about to start after it. An officer and a couple of troopers dismounted, and, quick as thought, dashed at the platform, stopped the driver with pistols, trigger-fingered, mounted on it, and made him drive full speed to the train, which they overtook, followed by the mounted men, stopped it, and captured a mail full of letters and papers with important information. That was quick and smart, anyhow.—*Times' correspondent.*

PRUSSIAN SOLDIERS IN CAMP.—The war correspondent of the *Morning Advertiser* gives an interesting account of the behaviour of the Prussian soldiers after their victory at Sedan:—"Before going to sleep I took a walk round the town. The scene was very fine. The whole horizon was lurid with the reflection of fire. All along the valley of the Meuse, on either side, were the bivouacs of the Prussian host. Two hundred thousand men lay here around their King. On the horizon glowed the flames of the burning villages, the flicker occasionally reflecting itself on a link of the placid Meuse. Over all the quiet moon careered through a sky cumbered with wind clouds. What were the Prussians doing on this their night of triumph? Celebrating their victory by wassail and riot? No. There arose from every camp one unanimous chorus of song, but not the song of ribaldry. Verily, they are a great race these Prussians—a masterful, fighting, praying people, who remind me

greatly of the men whom Cromwell led. The chant that filled the night was Luther's hymn, the glorious Nun danket alle Gott,

the Old Hundredth of Germany. To hear this great martial host singing this noble hymn under such circumstances was alone worth a journey to Sedan, with all its vicissitudes and difficulties."

SHOWING THE WHITE FEATHER.—M. Emile de Girardin, the eminent journalist, who was one of the chief promoters of the present war, announces his intention of leaving Paris to found a paper in the provinces; he is too old and short-sighted, he says, to be of use in the capital. Colonel von Holstein recently bet M. Girardin 20,000*fr.* that the Prussian army would defile before his house in the Avenue du Roi de Rome by the 15th of September.—*Letter from Paris.*

A MELANCHOLY BUT VERY INTERESTING CORTÈGE is passing just now through the more quiet parts of Belgium. General Wimpffen, having to remain with the whole of his staff a prisoner in Prussia, expressed the wish of going there *à petites journées* on horseback, supposing, probably, that the residence in Aachen or Mayence will be quite long enough without his hurrying there. The other day I saw them passing through Neufchâteau in a party of some twenty-five riders, with a couple of omnibuses behind them. The General, who was unhappy enough to take the command of the army only for the purpose of signing a capitulation, had an expression in his face, the melancholy of which any one who has seen him will probably remember for a long time to come.—*Asamat-Batuk in the Pall Mall Gazette.*

FEELINGS OF THE DEFEATED FRENCH AFTER SEDAN.—Both soldiers and officers who had escaped from the carnage and were disarmed on the Belgian soil assured me as late as the 2nd of Sept. at Couvin and on the road to Bouillon that, although their regiments had been beaten, the battle was won, as Bazaine had arrived with the whole of his army and attacked the enemy from the Montmédy route. "We have heard ourselves the infernal fire he opened upon them," they assured me, and remained labouring like myself for more than twenty-four hours under this miserable illusion. And when on the next day the truth was known first through a small Belgian paper called *L'Ami de l'Ordre*, and then through the *Indépendance*, one heard only the most dreadful swearing of the poor and deceived men. "So was it always since we left Chalons," said they. "The whole of the time we were assured that Bazaine was to meet us. On the three fatal days of the Meuse every regiment which was cut to pieces was confident that the next standing to it was already with Bazaine. And so, probably, the troops of Bazaine were assured that we were with them, when we were slaughtered here and packed alive into the coffin of Sedan. They call it '*relever le morale des troupes*.' A nice '*relevée*.' Be their souls blessed!" And then one hears endless tales of the fabulous mismanagement and miscommandment of the army. One of the officers of the *Etat-Major* showed me the most detailed map of Germany—the only piece of property he had still preserved, as it was placed at the beginning of the campaign in a special pocket adapted to his saddle—and avowed that he had no map of France given to him:—"I had never been here previously, and never dreamed of the possibility of the war being carried on here, and now I was not only to fight here, but received the order to conduct quickly and safely a whole defeated brigade from the surrounded field to the road of Mézières. The result was only what it must have been. The soldiers began their flight, and brought me to Belgium, instead of my bringing them to Mézières. '*Et voilà comme nous faisons la guerre! C'est infame!*' Have you heard something positive about Failly and MacMahon? I left them both alive, although the former was already wounded. But I am sure that Failly must have been shot, for if he was not lucky enough to come under an enemy's bullet his soldiers must have shot him. I have no hesitation to say now that I should have done it myself if I could have caught hold of him. He breakfasted with two of his division generals when his troops were slaughtered, and one of his companions had his head cut away by a howitzer at the very moment they were leaving their table." A rather loose infantry soldier listening to our conversation joined in it, saying it was a pity that there were not more of such clever howitzers, and passing some remarks about MacMahon's abilities—remarks which obviously shocked my officer and caused him to walk away from the place where we were talking. "The truth is," whispered he to me when we were out of the soldier's grasp, "that the man is not quite so wrong, although he has no right of passing such remarks. MacMahon is not fit to be commander-in-chief. He is the best and the most valiant of the division generals, but that is all." It is quite unwillingly that I weary the reader with all these quotations, as I have heard them repeated almost word for word over and over again by several dozens of officers and soldiers to whom I spoke during the week I have spent among them all along the frontier. It was almost the only answer to all my attempts of finding out some little hopes at least for the future of this unhappy army.—*Asamat-Batuk on the Pall Mall Gazette.*

AN OUTPOST SCENE NEAR METZ.—A somewhat novel affair took place at the outposts this evening. An old woman was seen by a Prussian "Doppel-post," or double sentry, of the 33rd Regiment engaged in an orchard picking up sticks. As her occupation was harmless, their attention was naturally drawn away to a more serious engagement going on in the vineyards. Suddenly the old woman takes refuge behind a tree, disengages a carbine from her petticoats, and, taking aim at the nearest Prussian sentry, shoots and wounds him severely. The action,

however, had not been so quick but that his comrade saw it, and, raising his rifle to his shoulder, he fired at and killed the supposed woman. He had just time to advance and discover a French tirailleur so disguised, when an advance of the French compelled him to retire, taking his wounded comrade with him.—*Letter from the Camp before Metz.*

A VILLAGE NEAR METZ.—For several weeks all services in the churches in the neighbourhood of Gorze have been suspended, in consequence of their being filled with wounded; but last Sunday the bells summoned the remnant of the scattered inhabitants to worship.—*Letter from the German Camp.*

A FRENCH COMPARISON OF THE TWO ARMIES.—Captain Jeannerod, in the *Temps*, gives the opinions of officers with whom he conversed that "the German infantry was inferior to ours. They triumphed by their numerous and admirably served artillery. In all that requires knowledge and direction, we are behind them, but the soldier who represents the living forces of the nation is still among us the first. The enemy's artillery was magnificent, comprising, it is said, nearly 1000 pieces. That is probably somewhat of an exaggeration, but certainly, on September 1, nothing else was seen. The hill sides and the borders of the woods—in fact, every position—was occupied by artillery, and while, from lack of ammunition, we were obliged to slacken our fire, they poured upon us an incessant storm of iron, against which no cavalry or infantry—no courage could stand. Scarcely had our men come up than a first shell came that would be a little too high, then a second a little short; the third fell exactly among the ranks. At Monzon, where a division of General Lebrun's corps passed the Meuse, the projectiles were poured upon them with incredible precision."

STARVATION OF THE FRENCH PEASANTRY NEAR SEDAN.—The unfortunate people of Bazailles are, one and all, starving in Bouillon and the other villages on the frontier. I have mentioned this place as being an instance near at hand; but there are, at the very least, a couple of score of small towns in which the people are quite as badly off. There are, all through Lorraine and along the Meuse, scores of husbands who have lost their wives, of wives who have lost their husbands, of children who have lost their parents, and of parents who have lost their children. Misery, in short, could hardly be greater than it is in some of the districts which, a week ago, were amongst the most prosperous in France; and nothing short of an actual visit to the towns and villages in which the German army is or has been could give anything like an adequate idea of the case.—*Letter from Bouillon.*

LOOKING FOR LODGINGS.—A correspondent writing from Bouillon describes his experiences in hunting for a night's lodging. After dinner he went out, accompanied by a Bavarian officer, on his expedition. "We were recommended (he says) to go to a certain M. Picard, who, we were told, had no one in his house. Picard said, 'Try next door'; but next door we were assured that Picard was the man, and that if he liked to do it he could give us a room. 'Of course, if you insist upon it you must have it,' said Picard—a cunning sort of boor, whom Balzac might have introduced into 'Les Paysans.' 'Let me see. Would you like to have the room next this? There is a wounded man in here—you see he is not dead. The ball has been extracted. The surgeon even says that he thinks he can bring him round; but his wound has to be dressed every half-hour; and that might disturb you. Otherwise, if you like both of you to sleep on the ground by the side of the wounded man, for God's sake do so.' Declined with thanks! 'Then,' said Picard, 'you would perhaps like the room upstairs where my little boy is lying dangerously ill with the scarlet fever? You have only to say so, and a bed shall be prepared for you at once.' The scarlet fever was also declined. 'You have an excellent room on the first floor, looking into the street,' said the Bavarian; I have already examined your house from the outside.' 'Yes,' answered Picard, 'and two young ladies on a visit to wife—they went out for a walk an hour ago and have not yet returned—are going to sleep in it. You would not, I suppose,'—glaring at us with dull, stupid, but ferocious eyes, as much as to say, 'there is no sort of atrocity, all the same, of which you are not capable'—'you would not, I suppose, ask me to make you up a bed there?' 'What other rooms have you?' we asked. 'This one, the one you are now standing in,' he replied (we had left the room occupied by the wounded man), 'and I will now tell you what I can do for you. In this room, in this bed, my wife and myself have slept every night for the last thirty-five years. I will now give it up to you, gentlemen, and my wife and myself will walk up and down the street all night while you are reposing.' At last we went to the mayor, who keeps, or ought to keep, a list of available quarters. He could tell us of none, but it appeared that in his own house, at the extreme end of the town, doors shut, windows darkened, there were two magnificent suites of rooms, of which we occupied one. M. le Maire could give us no breakfast next morning. He pleaded bachelorhood, and swore he had no cook, nor could he say where even a piece of bread was to be bought. Indeed, the only sign of hospitality he thought fit to manifest during my brief and, I trust, never-to-be-renewed, acquaintance with him was the offer of the tenth part of a bottle of brandy the night that the Emperor sent in his letter to the King of Prussia."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Octroi duties are temporarily abolished, to facilitate the introduction of provisions into Paris. The *Rappel* pretends that Garibaldi, with numerous Italian Volunteers, is en route for Paris. (?)

According to the *Rappel* there is not now a single "Imperial" inscription left on the buildings of Paris.

Several Louvre paintings are said to have been discovered in the house of Mdlle. Marguerite Belanger.

Several citizens were to have been tried on Wednesday for shouting, "Vive la République." It need hardly be said that the cases were not called on.

All classes of French residents in London have established a Committee of National Defence for the purpose of strengthening the hands of the new Government in defending the soil of France from the invading armies.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says:—"The French army is unanimous in declaring that their 'Intendance,' which is equivalent to our Control Department, has proved the most hideous failure experienced in the war."

The Irish national papers are in ecstasies at the "establishment" of the French Republic. It compensates, they think, for all the losses of the war. They are of opinion that the Parisians act reasonably in rejoicing over the turn in affairs, and are eager to rejoice along with them.

The Germans, having found that the eggs sent from a distance for the wounded in the hospitals were often rotten by the time they reached their destination, have applied to Frhr. von Liebig for a remedy. He suggests that each egg should be smeared over with bullock-fat, so as to protect the shell from the external air.

Refugees from France, with great piles of luggage, continue to arrive at Dover, Folkestone, Newhaven, and Southampton. In the last-named town the hotels and lodging-houses are crowded with French refugees. Numbers of them have left their furniture and property in Paris, and have left the capital to avoid the horrors of the siege.

Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Auberon Herbert have, in a letter to the *Times*, contradicted the statement of the *Standard* that while following the German army as members of the ambulance corps they lived "at free quarters," their rule being to make liberal payment for food and lodging, and, indeed, for all that they received.

Three of the Orleans Princes, the Duc d'Aumale, the Duc de Chartres, and the Prince de Joinville, went over to Paris on Tuesday, as has already been announced by telegraph. They presumed that, as exceptional laws had been practically repealed by the revolution, the decree which exiled them was also set aside. Two of their friends announced their arrival to the Government, together with their desire to undertake military posts, however obscure and perilous. The Government, however, was apprehensive that their presence might excite misconception and disturbances, and in courteous and sympathetic terms appealed to their patriotism, and begged them to depart. They accordingly started an hour later for Calais.

GERMAN WORKING-CLASS FEELING ON THE WAR.

Mr. Robert Applegarth, the intelligent secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, has just returned from a visit to Germany and the Rhine frontier, where he had gone for the purpose of ascertaining the effects and influence of the war upon the working classes and their homes and occupations. He states, as one result of his inquiries, that up to the capture of the Emperor and the advent of the Republic in France, the working men of Germany generally were ready to make any sacrifice for the vigorous prosecution of the war; but that now they are almost unanimously of opinion that enough has been done to vindicate the honour and secure the safety of Fatherland, and are in favour of a cessation of the war and the return of the army as soon as peace can be concluded. They are entirely opposed to the attack on Paris, or to fighting against the French Republic, and strongly protest against any attempt on the part of the King of Prussia to annex any portion of the French territory. The German Republicans, who are very numerous and strong in all the strong towns, are organising a united movement for calling upon the King of Prussia to conclude at once an honourable peace with the French Republican Government, and to disclaim all idea of the annexation of either Alsace or Lorraine. The council of the International Workmen's Association in London have also received letters from their branches in Germany expressing the same views.

(Continued on page 882.)

Postscript

Wednesday, September 14th, 1870.

THE WAR.

PARIS, SEPT. 13.

General Trochu passed a grand review to-day. The Minister of the Interior publishes the following war items:—"The bridge at Creil, on the Oise, was blown up yesterday evening, and all the other bridges will successively share the same fate. The Uhlans, who were yesterday at Nogent-sur-Seine, announced that they would return to-day and bombard the town should the bridge at Nogent be blown up. 8,000 Prussians, most of them pioneers, are at present at Châlons. Communication still exists with Troyes. The White Cuirassiers are at Chaumy and in the neighbourhood, awaiting the arrival of the army to attack Soissons and La Fère. There are 2,500 Bavarians at Vaucouleurs, and 2,000 at Void. A telegram from Saint Quentin states that the cause of the catastrophe at Laon is still unknown. The Prefect has been made pri-

soner, and has been taken before General von Moltke at Craonne. The wounded French general is kept guarded at the hospital."

Lord Lyons, Chevalier Nigra, and Senor Olazaga have declared that they will not leave Paris. None of the Ministers will leave except the Minister of Justice.

The steamer Ganges sailed from Marseilles yesterday for Civita Vecchia, to bring home the Pontifical Zouaves and other soldiers in the service of the Pope.

Demonstrations in favour of the United States Legation of America have taken place in Paris and Marseilles. To the Paris demonstrations Mr. Washburne is reported to have said that "he believed the two republics ought to remain united in the presence of monarchical Europe." But he added that in consequence of their relations with other Powers, and the great distance between France and America, "his personal opinion was that France must reckon more upon moral than active support."

We learn by telegraph from New York that since the proclamation of the French Republic the press of the United States almost unanimously express sympathy with France.

BERLIN, SEPT. 13.

Some Socialists at Brunswick have issued an address, extolling the French Republican Government, and making invidious remarks on German monarchical institutions. They were immediately arrested, and sent to the fortress of Loetzen, on the Russian frontier.

Several Prussian regiments are now armed with Chassepots taken at Sedan.

All the papers demand stringent reprisals for the treachery at Laon.

General Wimpffen arrived at Stuttgart on the 9th of September.

M. THIERS IN LONDON.

The distinguished historian of "The Consulate and the Empire," who is entrusted, as has already been announced, with a mission on behalf of the Republican Government of France to the Cabinets of London, St. Petersburg, and Vienna, arrived at Charing-cross Railway Terminus at a quarter-past six yesterday morning. M. Thiers was accompanied by five ladies; and, four cabs having been engaged for the conveyance of passengers and luggage, the party was driven in the first instance to Claridge's Hotel. Neither there, however, nor at one or two other hotels at which application was made, could accommodation be obtained, and eventually an order was given to drive to the French Embassy. At one o'clock yesterday afternoon Earl Granville called upon Mr. Thiers at the Embassy; and at a later hour the Right Honourable W. M. Gladstone also made a call.

THE MARCH ON ROME.

ROME, SEPT. 13.

The official *Giornale di Roma* publishes an extract from the letter addressed by King Victor Emmanuel to the Pope, and appends the following remark:—"It would be useless to add that the Pope has declared against all the propositions of King Victor Emmanuel."

The Pope, who was to have gone to Malta on board an English vessel, decided yesterday to remain at the Vatican. His Holiness has called together the members of the Diplomatic Body, in order to protest before them against the entry of the Italian troops, who are now within a few miles of Rome.

The Italian ultimatum rejected by the Pope contained these terms:—"The Pope to retain the sovereignty over the Leonine portion of Rome, and the ecclesiastical institutions of all Rome. The income of the Pope, the Cardinals, and all the Papal officers and officials to continued unscathed. The Papal debt to be guaranteed. Envoys to the Pope and Cardinals to retain their present immunities, even if not residing in the Leonine city. All nations to be freely admitted to the Leonine city. The Catholic clergy in all Italy to be freed from Government supervision. The Italian military, municipal, and entail laws to be modified as regards Rome."

ALLEGED REVOLUTION IN SAVOY.

The correspondent of the *Times* at Berlin sends the following telegram:—"A rebellion has broken out at Nice and Mentone. The French authorities have been deposed, and the political prisoners released. An Italian Republic was proclaimed."

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

There were moderate supplies of new English wheat on sale here to-day, the quality of which continued good. The attendance of millers was again moderate, and the trade assumed a very quiet appearance. No quotable change was made in prices, which remain as current on Monday last. In foreign wheat a small retail business was transacted, on former terms. Barley was steady in value and demand, for both grinding and distilling sorts. Malt was quiet, at previous currencies. Oats were in fair supply, and sound corn sold quietly at Monday's quotations. The supply of beans and peas was scarce, at the late decline. Maize was unchanged in price. The flour trade was very quiet, but no alteration took place in the value of either foreign or country marks.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.				
Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	930	430	205	—
Irish	—	—	—	—
Foreign	31,080	799	—	39,350 400 shs.
				5,740 bbls.
				Maize, 7,730 qrs.

MRS. BAYNES and her Sisters, the Misses **BEARD**, have REMOVED from Denmark-hill to a larger house at **HAMPSTEAD**, where their PUPILS will REASSEMBLE early in SEPTEMBER. Prospectuses will be forwarded on application to Mrs. Baynes, Mount View, Green-hill, Hampstead, N.W.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1870.

SUMMARY.

THE Germans are close upon Paris, and the 300,000 troops, which have been marching as fast as the weather would permit, are to be in position to-day within a few leagues of the French capital. At the same time, M. Thiers, though he has not acknowledged the French Republic, has been induced by the Government to come over to England on a special mission with a view to put an end to the war. According to the *Times* his object is neither more nor less than to urge the neutral States "to form a league to compel the Germans to retire from France." It is impossible to suppose so sagacious a statesman as M. Thiers coming over from Paris on so bootless an errand. A more rational explanation of the object of his journey is given by the *Daily Telegraph*:—"The terms which M. Thiers is empowered to submit," says our contemporary, "are, we have reason to believe, of the following purport. He has instructions to represent that his country not only wishes, but most ardently desires, to put an end to hostilities. The war is repudiated by the enfranchised conscience of France, and she is ready to make amends for her part in it. She is prepared to pay a heavy indemnity in money, corresponding to the proved expenses and losses of Germany, possibly up to the sum total of one hundred millions sterling. She will consent, under certain conditions, to surrender the half of her fleet to the victors, and to dismantle the fortresses of Metz and Strasbourg. These things she will do to atone for her fault; but she will not yield one inch of Alsace and Lorraine. Rather than that she will defend Paris to the last extremity; and, when Paris is laid in ruins, she will carry on the war to the bitter end from town to town throughout the land." This statement completely harmonises with the reports which come from Paris. But though these proposals, which certainly would entail heavy sacrifices on France, will no doubt be transmitted to the German headquarters, they are not likely to be at once listened to. Our Government are, for the present, powerless. The King of Prussia rejects mediation, refuses an armistice, and will only treat under the walls of Paris. His unwillingness to negotiate is increased by his dislike of the Republican Government of France, and his profuse attentions to the fallen Emperor seem to indicate a hope that Napoleon III. may yet be restored to the Tuileries.

At all events, Paris is resolutely preparing for a siege. All accounts testify that General Trochu's preparations are very formidable, and that the French capital may hold out for a month. There are 300,000 men, a small portion of whom are disciplined, to defend the

fortifications. The gates of the city have been closed, and drilling has been going on night and day. There is little doubt that the first summons to surrender Paris will be refused. We may suppose that the detached forts will then be attacked, and that they will be able to hold out for some days against the German artillery. When they have been reduced, there must then be a bombardment of Paris, with its unspeakable horrors, or negotiations for peace. King William will incur an awful responsibility if he resolves to rain down fire upon the devoted city rather than accept such satisfaction as the Government is prepared to offer. We cannot suppose that, under such circumstances, he will prove unyielding—nor that at such an awful crisis, the neutral Powers would spare any efforts to bring about a suspension of hostilities with a view to a permanent peace.

Meanwhile, the Provisional Government for the defence of France are disappointing the expectations of their enemies. They are ruling with vigour and firmness. Order is preserved in Paris and elsewhere; the Reds have received timely notice that they will receive no countenance; M. Rochefort, as a member of the Defence Committee, is exhibiting marked moderation; and a Constituent Assembly has been convened for October to ratify the terms of peace which the Ministry may then have agreed to, and to decide upon the future government of the country. Consequently the Republic itself may be regarded as still an open question. It is not acknowledged by General Trochu, who is its nominal head, nor by M. Thiers, its special envoy. All France will be called upon, when the present juncture has passed away, to deliberate, through her chosen representatives, on the future constitution of the country.

Whatever may be the ultimate results of the downfall of the French Empire, one of its consequences is inevitable. Italian troops have crossed the Roman frontier, as we have explained elsewhere. Rome is probably now occupied by General Cadorna, and no resistance has anywhere else been offered. The Pope has protested against the invasion, but has decided to remain at the Vatican. The French Government, so far from disapproving of this act, have recalled the Zouaves from Rome. Victor Emmanuel has, however, a greater problem to solve than the Roman question. It is said that Savoy, which was some years ago annexed to France, has risen in insurrection and proclaimed a Republic! This movement will be an embarrassment alike to France and Italy.

Our news columns contain the particulars of a terrible calamity which has happened to our ironclad fleet. During a heavy gale on the night of the 6th, while the squadron was off Cape Finisterre, the Captain, the finest turretship of the British navy, foundered with nearly all hands. Some sixteen of the crew only, out of 560 souls on board, escaped, and the rest went down with the vessel, which was in a few minutes driven on her beam ends by the wind and the seas, and turned bottom upwards. No such fearful and unique disaster has happened since the wreck of the Royal George, and the calamity is enhanced by the fact that Captain Cowper Coles, who designed the Captain, Captain Burgoyne, and the sons of Mr. Childers and Lord Northbrook went down in the sinking ship. The fatality is attributed to the low bulwarks of the Captain, which were not an adequate protection against the Atlantic seas.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

By this time the various Prussian Corps d'Armées which for the last few days have been marching upon Paris, have probably reached the several places appointed for them by Count Moltke, and will doubtless be prepared, at the word of command, to close in upon the devoted city. Before further operations are resorted to, it may not be out of place to pause for an instant, and, with as much impartiality as our own relation to the belligerent Powers, and as the exciting circumstances of the present position of affairs, will allow, to discuss in two or three paragraphs what may be called "the previous question"; that is, whether the Prussian Government can be justified in pushing the advantage which it has obtained in the recent conflicts to the extreme limit of laying siege to Paris.

Some of the arguments used against the Prussians in regard to this matter appear to us to proceed upon an utterly false estimate of the comparative value of life and property. Paris, it is true, is a Queen among cities. Her works of art have obtained for her renown throughout the civilised world. In no other place, perhaps, is the spirit of beauty more exquisitely en-

shrined. Nowhere does it look forth from so many points, and with such seductive charms, upon the residents and visitors, as in Paris. In one respect, it may be said to belong to Europe, or, rather, to civilised mankind, as much as to France herself—namely, in the provision it has made for the gratification of sensuous pleasures, and in the freedom with which it has opened them indiscriminately to the participation of foreigners. To besiege Paris, it is said, to deface her beauty, to overthrow her buildings, and to spoil her material charms, would indicate in those who do it a vandalism of soul which would assuredly earn for them the contempt and execration of surrounding peoples. Be it so. We, at least, shall not be expected to vindicate the barbarities which are sanctioned by the usages of war. But why this horror at the desecration by violence of the works of man, when there is no similar horror at the wholesale mutilation and destruction of the handiwork of God? Are men, women, children to be held in less reverence by those who sit down before a city to besiege it than the edifices, the statues, the pictures, and the art treasures with which the place may chance to be enriched? It is not because Paris is "a city of pleasures" that it must be considered properly exempt from the chances of war. Its true claim upon the forbearance of the conqueror consists in the multitude of its inhabitants, and in the desperate, unmanageable, irremediable misery which a siege, whether successful or not, will be certain to inflict upon them. Humanity shrinks from the contemplation, even in idea only, of the awful sufferings in store for the Parisians, if the present rulers of France determine to hold out, as they have threatened to do, to the last man; and terrible will be the responsibility of both belligerent Powers if this great outrage upon civilisation be not somehow or other prevented.

At the same time, the remark is obvious enough that the moral causes of so dire a catastrophe are certainly not to be laid exclusively at the doors of Prussia. France will be equally guilty with her adversary, if not more so, of having brought it about. France, and not the Empire only, but especially Paris, rushed into this senseless and savage war with a view to humble her hereditary rival, and to despoil Germany of some of the fairest portions of her territory. Paris was frenzied with joy when war was declared. But for Paris the Emperor would have shrunk from pushing his hollow quarrel with the King of Prussia to extremities. The authority of the Provisional Government of National Defence rests almost exclusively upon the acquiescence of Paris. It is the sentiment of Paris which that Government publicly expresses. But looking back upon the history of the last six weeks, Paris has no title in reason, in justice, or in policy, to say that she will hear of no terms of negotiation with the enemy which shall require the cession by France of a single inch of territory, or a single stone of any fortress she possesses.

We can make every allowance for the position in which the break-down of the Empire has placed M. Jules Favre, and for the enormous difficulties which he has to face. We do not believe, however, that the Circular which he has addressed to the representatives of the French Government abroad, full of masculine eloquence as it is, can be regarded as giving utterance to his own sentiments or policy. The voice is that of Jacob, while the hands are those of Esau. The policy announced by M. Jules Favre is a policy dictated by the mortified pride of Paris. It cannot bear to pay the forfeit incurred by its own lust of glory. It chooses rather to expose itself to the direst calamity which can befall it than to resign any part of its possessions, and thereby to lower its pretensions to national supremacy. It will die rather than make any sign of weakness. Men call this courage, as they used to call the unconquerable persistency of the duellist courage. History will probably differ in judgment from the journalists of the present day, and as no one now speaks of the courage, but of the obstinacy and infatuation, of the Jews, when they held the city of Jerusalem against the assaults of Titus, so posterity will probably look at the folly with which Paris courts the fate of the suicide, rather than at that superiority to the fear of death which every common soldier in the army daily exemplifies.

We trust, however, though we thus write, that Paris is not doomed to encounter the perils, the privations, and the ruin of a siege: notwithstanding the recent declaration of M. Jules Favre. We are confident that the Provisional Government will ultimately act with a moderation more becoming the position which it occupies. Indeed, there is reasonable ground for hoping that it already takes a more rational view of the duty which circumstances,

not of their own creation, have devolved upon them. M. Thiers is already in London, charged with an important mission on behalf of the Provisional Government, which, through him, has requested the Government of Her Majesty to transmit a proposal of some kind to the Court of Prussia. We know not what that proposal may be. We only know that a disposition towards negotiation has been exhibited by the existing Government of France. We trust it will be met in a like spirit by her adversary, and that this most sanguinary and unnecessary war may be brought to a close without the necessity of executing judgment upon the city of Paris.

THE MARCH ON ROME.

THE secular power of the Pope is crumbling away, and in a few days the anomaly of keeping the greatest historical city of Europe and the neighbouring districts under priestly despotism, in order that the external splendour of the Romish hierarchy might be preserved, will be at an end. When the war broke out the French troops were withdrawn from Rome, but His Holiness received continued though somewhat vague assurances of support from the Emperor. Napoleon III. had still sufficient authority to oblige the Florence Government to accept the revived September Convention—that is, the engagement to guard the Roman frontier without entering within the charmed circle; to act the part of policeman at a tremendous cost for behoof of the College of Cardinals. It cannot be denied that Victor Emmanuel's Cabinet exhibited remarkable patience and forbearance, all the more laudable by reason of the unyielding obstinacy of Pius IX., who might at any moment have secured most favourable conditions. No doubt the Italian Government made up their minds that a policy of expectation would ultimately lead to the same result as a policy of vigorous action. Besides, France might yet recover her military ascendancy, and had not the Empress, who ruled at the Tuileries, declared, "Rather the Prussians at Paris than the Italians at Rome." But as one disaster after another befell the armies of France, the situation became more difficult. There was a cordon of troops around the Roman territory, but the agitation within and the pressure without, seemed to forbid a pacific solution of the Roman question. Rome or Revolution, was the alternative presented ten days ago to the King of Italy.

While Victor Emmanuel was undecided, and his Ministers so divided in opinion that they were on the point of resigning in a body, the news of the overthrow at Sedan, the fall of the Emperor, and of the proclamation of the French Republic, reached Florence. All hesitation was at an end. As one of our contemporaries phrases it, the Monarchy must annex the States of the Church in order to prevent the States of the Church from becoming a Republic, and then annexing the Monarchy. It was decided by a united Cabinet at once to occupy the Roman territory, satisfy the Italian people, and prevent a revolutionary outbreak. A veteran statesman, Count Ponza di San Martino, was sent to Rome to announce the resolution of the Government to the Pope, and the Foreign Minister was instructed to send a circular to the representatives of Italy abroad explaining the course proposed to be taken by the Cabinet. The Italian Government announce that they will guarantee independence, dignity, and liberty for the exercise of his spiritual power to the Pope, and come to an understanding on the subject with the Powers. By "the sovereign independence of the Roman Pontiff" is probably meant his free rule over the "Leonine city," which comprises St. Peter's, the Vatican, and St. Angelo. "The troops," says the official circular, "will leave the populations at liberty to carry on their own public administration, and will take no part in any act that might prejudice any political or ecclesiastical question whatever."

On Monday the Italian troops crossed the frontier, and were cordially welcomed by the population of the Roman States. No resistance appears to have been offered—the Papal force, estimated at 12,000 men, mutinous and disorganised, retreating before the army of occupation upon the capital. If there were to be any attempt to make a stand behind the defences of Rome, the citizens would rise behind the Papal troops and paralyse their action. But we are told that Pius IX. has given orders that his little army is to offer no resistance, while he himself will publish a formal protest and retire to Castel Gandolfo. The Pope can have little hope of the restoration of his secular power. Republican France is adverse to his claims; Austria acquiesces in the Italian invasion, and has surrendered any right of inter-

ference by the abolition of the Concordat; Prussia has her hands full, and would never venture to contest the rights of the population of the Roman States to choose their own destiny. Once at Rome, especially if the occupation should be effected without bloodshed, the King of Italy will remain there. Indeed the Catholic Powers will be rather relieved by a transaction which removes some of the worst embarrassments caused by the proclamation of Papal Infallibility.

By the acquisition of Roman territory, and the proclamation of Rome as the capital, Italian unity will now be complete. There will be a revival of Victor Emmanuel's waning popularity, and an opportunity of organising the kingdom of Italy on a firmer basis. But the exchange of Rome for Florence is a doubtful gain. The Tuscan capital is more healthy, and more suitable for the seat of Government than the Eternal City, standing in the midst of marshes, hardly habitable during three months of the year, and celebrated mainly for its historical monuments, multitudinous churches, and population of priests. The one represents the ideas and aspirations of the age—the other lives upon the glories and memories of the past. Florence has been orderly and peaceful; Rome for some time to come will probably be turbulent and rebellious.

A year ago the entry of Italian troops into Rome would have excited a commotion throughout Europe. Amid the absorbing interest of a great war, the troubles of the Pope are of secondary interest. The potentates to whom he might have looked for succour are fallen or are preoccupied; the prelates of the Roman Catholic Church of greatest influence are those whom Pius IX. has most conspicuously flouted and brow-beaten. While Italian troops are demolishing his temporal power, the German Catholics are generally contesting his monstrous claims as a spiritual dictator. That the Roman Catholic faith will become effete because the Pope is no longer a king is not probable. But between the Infallibility dogma and the Italian invasion, Romanism has received a serious blow. One has robbed the Pope of popular respect, the other of secular power. The downfall of the Emperor has deprived him of a patron; the triumph of Prussia has ensured that ascendancy of free-thought which is the great foe of priestcraft. Pius IX. will not betake himself to Malta. If he goes into exile his moral influence over Italy will cease. With only "the Vatican and a garden," he may still be a thorn in the side of Victor Emmanuel; but the era of brilliant Romish pageants will have passed away, and with them much that commended the Roman Catholic religion to the credulity of the ignorant and the acceptance of worldly and fashionable society.

THE TIENTSIN MASSACRE.

WE publish in another column full details of the terrible massacre of the French Consul and Sisters of Mercy at Tientsin. This deplorable tragedy threatens to have very serious effects on the relations of Europeans with the Chinese. Such outbreaks of cruel fanaticism are by no means confined to Asiatic communities. They have happened in nearly every European country, certainly in England. The recent massacre derives its chief importance from the hostile attitude assumed by the authorities of Tientsin, and the actual encouragement they gave to the rioters. So far there can, unhappily, be no doubt. For the rest there is still a conflict of evidence. We know that the population of Tientsin had for many weeks been worked up to a pitch of fury by stories invented and industriously circulated, of the kidnapping of children in order that the Catholic Sisters of Mercy might kill them and use their eyes and other parts of the body for medicines and magical purposes! There is also reason to fear that the local mandarins fomented the fanaticism of the people, and did nothing to protect the threatened Europeans. The outbreak, however, appears to have been specially directed against the French Sisters of Mercy, and not against missionaries in general, and the latest accounts disprove the story of a great number of children having been burnt to death.

Whether this outrage, for which the Pekin Government have offered redress, is to be regarded as an isolated act, remains to be seen. According to a very recent telegram the Chinese are massing troops at Tientsin, and some missionaries have been assaulted. Our correspondent at Shanghai expresses great alarm for the future, and fears that a general attack will be made upon all foreigners. We trust his fears are unfounded. For the most part the Chinese seem disposed to live on amicable terms with the European residents, and to tolerate all Protestant missionaries whose mode of procedure is open, who live with

their families, and do not invoke the interference of their respective Governments to forward their views. But they are jealous of the French Catholics, who set at naught their prejudices, build their imposing cathedrals in Pekin and other large cities, adopt questionable expedients to gain converts, and oblige their consuls to intervene on their behalf, and exact unjustifiable privileges. The real, or at all events the greatest, difficulty arising out of European relations with China, lies in the presence and policy of the French, who, as the *Times* says, resolve "to control, intervene, and dictate, where in reality France has no material interest whatever at stake, or any political ends to serve which might justify such inordinate pretensions. This has done much already to damage the free growth and value of the best (?) graft European civilisation has ever made in China—the foreign inspectorate of Customs. By insisting upon patronage for an equal number of French subjects, although French commerce does not contribute one-twentieth of the Customs dues annually collected, they threaten to destroy its efficiency. This it is which renders all efforts to introduce railroads, telegraphs, steam machinery, and mining under foreign inspection hopeless. The fear of dictation and imperious claims for equal concessions for the French nation, and, following suit, to other Treaty Powers, make all such schemes unworkable and abhorrent to the Chinese, conscious of the weakness of the nation, or rather of the Government, and its inability to resist any demands, however unreasonable."

THE BATTLE WITH DISEASE.

How contradictory is man. All his energies, talents, and skill are ceaselessly being developed in two diametrically opposite directions, the destroying and preserving of human life. The story of the present unhappy war reveals but too forcibly to how great a pitch of perfection the art of destruction has been brought at the present day, when chassepots, needle-guns, and mitrailleurs combine to render yet more horrible the fearful scene of carnage inevitable when two rival hosts meet fully prepared for the fray. But we hear little of the advance which has been made in the art of preserving life. Sanitary science is not so popular in the eyes of the world as is military science. Its triumphs are seldom recorded by the eager pens of enthusiastic "specials"; no laurels await the victors in the campaign against fever and disease. Success on their part is met with indifference, failure with reproach. Where is the nation's monument to brave-hearted Southwood Smith? Where are the titular honours of Edwin Chadwick? Well is it for us, as a people, that there are some strong energetic minds, that are not to be daunted by popular apathy, or discouraged by the fear of abuse. It is to the men of thought, no less than to the men of action, that we owe so much of our social and intellectual progress in these latter days. Especially is this the case in sanitary matters. When the history of sanitary reform comes to be properly written, it will prove fully as interesting and instructive as any other. There are yet living among us men who can remember the time when sanitary reformers were regarded as mere dreamers, when the idea of a medical officer being attached to the Privy Council would be considered Utopian. Yet here we have the Twelfth Annual Report of Mr. Simon, the Medical Officer of the Department of Health—a fact indicative of the importance now attached to principles which at one time seemed to possess little or no value in the estimation of the crowd. Very interesting and suggestive is the report published by Mr. Simon. It shows that we are continually beset by dangers more terrible than those of war, that disease and pestilence are continually hovering in our neighbourhood, waiting to discover us off our guard. The French in Paris cannot be more closely besieged by the Prussians than are we by our insidious and merciless foes. We are obliged to call to our assistance an entire army of medical officers of health, nuisance inspectors, and other sanitary officials, whose combined labours seem to result in little more than keeping the enemy at bay.

During the last twelve months a ceaseless warfare has had to be waged against two special diseases—relapsing fever and scarlet fever. The former of these is so largely assisted, in its development, by the prevalence of destitution, that it has acquired the expressive name of "famine fever." Towards the close of 1869, there existed considerable fear that this epidemic would become seriously prevalent in the poorer metropolitan districts, but the prompt measures everywhere taken

by the various sanitary and other authorities have tended to check its progress in London, and some hope is entertained of its final extinction; but we fear the wish is father to the thought. The effect of the present war will be to increase the prices of provisions very largely during the coming winter, a circumstance which must inevitably press heavily on the resources and general health of the labouring poor. Mr. Simon evidently has a similar impression, for he tells us that there exists yet a sufficient amount of the disease in this country to render it a standing danger to the community, especially should circumstances again arise to favour its spread. The alarming character of this epidemic was not at first sufficiently understood by the general public, in consequence of the Diseases Prevention Act not having been put in force. But the aid of this measure was not required, because the victims of the epidemic being mostly of the destitute classes, ample provision was made for them under the Metropolitan Asylums Act of 1867. Had I been otherwise, some difficulty might have been experienced in properly meeting the emergency, in consequence of the chaotic state of the English law with regard to sanitary government. We have yet much to do in the way of proper sanitary legislation. How pressing is the need for further exertion in this direction, is shown by the prevalence of that mysterious disease, scarlet fever, in this country. Mr. Simon expresses his opinion, which we hope will ultimately be found not well founded, that scarlatina is uncontrollably contagious, and that the risk of contagion is enormously increased by the reckless manner in which patients suffering from this terrible disease are brought into close contact with the healthy and uninfected. This portion of Mr. Simon's report deserves, and will most certainly receive, the closest possible attention. Any method which proves efficacious in arresting the spread of contagion arising from scarlatina, will be found valuable in similar contingencies.

The whole of Mr. Simon's report is important as bearing on the evils arising from the sanitary condition of vast numbers of the labouring poor. Pure water is still a leading requirement, especially in villages and small towns, where the wells are frequently found poisoned, to an almost incredible extent, by the admission of excremental pollutions. In the cities and large towns the water is comparatively pure, but the want of a constant supply leads to its storage in a most imperfect manner, often in a mode most productive of epidemic. In White-chapel, one of the poorest and most crowded metropolitan districts, water-waste preventers are being largely used with great success. But the great obstacle to any real sanitary improvement is to be found in the want of proper dwelling accommodation for the labouring poor. The reports of the various metropolitan medical officers of health all point to this conclusion. It is here that their real difficulties are to be found. The poor are increasing faster than the amount of house accommodation. This is the problem which we shall be speedily called upon to discuss, and, until it is properly solved, we fear Mr. Simon's Reports will continue to form so many bulletins of conflict with baffled, but unconquered foes. There are evidences throughout the whole of the report, showing that Mr. Simon, and those associated with him, are fully aware of the real character and extent of the evil which so largely impedes their operations. But they are afraid of demanding too much, lest they should acquire the reputation of being alarmists. Moreover, some of the measures absolutely necessary to the proper maintenance of the public health, seem to strike at those fundamental principles of liberty of which the English are so jealous. But why should any man possess the liberty of spreading disease and infection among his fellow-creatures? It is not liberty, but license. Men who refuse to make their houses healthy commit an injury to the interests of the community. In like manner public companies who monopolise what have become necessities of life, are equally to blame if they do not assist in bringing them within the reach of the poorer members of society. These things are now beginning to be more properly understood; when they are fully understood, suitable remedies will be enforced, and then we may begin to indulge in the hope of gaining a victory over the twin curses—disease and pestilence. But how long shall we have to wait?

"Don't shiver for last year's snow," a saying of Archbishop Whately's, is peculiarly applicable to those who make themselves miserable over troubles that are past.

THE WAR.

MISCELLANEOUS.

(Continued from page 879.)

HUMAN FRIENDS ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.—Captain Furstenberg, of the 10th Hussars, had been wounded in the battle of Gravelotte, and passed the night of the 18th to the 19th on the battle-field. Recovering consciousness, after a fainting fit, at dawn he observed some figures busying themselves about. "Quite close to me (the deponent states) I plainly recognised a man in the garb of a field priest, and two Knights of the Order of St. John. When these men had arrived at the group they commenced cutting open the uniform of each at the breast with knives and scissors; whoever moved was choked at once by their hands; if nothing was found about their breast, they examined pockets and hands, each ring on the hands being cut off with the finger. The priest pocketed the valuables. These hyenas then approached the place where I lay; with difficulty I attempted to rise and call out for help, when one of them noticed me and bounded towards me. I called out as loudly as I was able, when two of them ran forward to stand guard. Fortunately, I felt my six-shooter at my side; I fired, and the field priest fell down wounded; the others escaped, but were overtaken by the field-watch, which happened to approach at that moment."

MR. G. A. SALA IN PRISON AS A SPY.—Mr. G. A. Sala, in Friday's *Telegraph*, describes his sufferings while in custody on suspicion of being a Prussian spy. He was apprehended in the Café du Helder on Saturday night, and taken to a guardhouse, where he remained till five o'clock the next morning. He was then taken out by a squad of armed policemen, and dragged violently through the streets to a central police-station, on which an attack had been made on the previous night by some of the people. Here he was thrust into a horrible dungeon which might have accommodated six persons standing upright, but into which some twenty-two were crammed. This cave of despair was lit by one small circular orifice high up in the wall, heavily grated, and communicating not with the open air, but with a lobby. Two boys in blouses had contrived by hoisting themselves on the shoulders of their elders to hang on to the bars of the window, whence they shrieked unrelentingly for air and water. His companions in captivity were ruffians accused of crimes of violence—thieves and vagabonds of the lowest description. The heat of the place was suffocating. He fainted away. On recovering, under the impetus of a kick from a wooden shoe, he found that he had been thrust under the long wooden bench running along one side of the cell. His pockets had been carefully turned out. He was subjected to a series of outrages which he shudders to recall, some of which he cannot record. He lay huddled in a heap on the filthy floor, while the ruffians stamped on him and kicked him. One of them bit the back of his hand severely. But for the protection of the bench under which he lay, and out of which they had not scope enough to drag him, he would probably have been murdered. At ten in the morning he was released from this place; and, after some marching and countermarching amongst the police, was freed through the interposition of Lord Lyons.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF STRASBOURG.—Strasbourg, a city of above 80,000 inhabitants, surrounded by fortifications in the antiquated manner of the sixteenth century, was strengthened by Vauban, who built a citadel outside the town, nearer the Rhine, and connected it with the ramparts of the town by the continuous lines of what was then called an entrenched camp. The citadel commanding the town, and being capable of independent defence after the town has capitulated, the simplest way to take both would be to attack the citadel at once, so as not to have to go through two successive sieges; but then, the works of the citadel are so much stronger, and its situation in the swampy lowlands near the Rhine renders the throwing up of trenches so much more difficult, that circumstances may, and generally will, advise a previous attack on the town, with the fall of which a further defence of the citadel alone would, in the eyes of a weak commander, lose much of its purpose; except in so far as it might secure better conditions of surrender. But, at all events, if the town alone be taken, the citadel remains to be reduced, and an obstinate commander may continue to hold out, and keep the town and the besiegers' establishments in it under fire. Under these circumstances what could be the use of a bombardment of the town? If all went well, the inhabitants might demoralise the greater part of the garrison, and compel the commander to abandon the town and throw himself, with the *élite* of his soldiers, 3,000 to 5,000 men, into the citadel, and there continue the defence and hold the town under his fire. And the character of General Ulrich (for that, and not Ulrich, is the name of the gallant old soldier) was known well enough to prevent anybody from supposing that he would allow himself to be intimidated into a surrender, both of town and citadel, by any amount of shells thrown into them. To bombard a place which has an independent citadel commanding it is in itself an absurdity and a useless cruelty. Certainly, stray shells or the slow shelling of a siege will always do damage in a besieged town; but that is nothing compared to the destruction and sacrifice of civilian life during a regular, systematic six days' bombardment such as has been inflicted upon the unfortunate city. The Germans say they must have the town soon, for political reasons. They intend to keep it at the peace. If that be so, the bombardment, the severity of which is unparalleled, was not only a crime, it was also a blunder. An excellent way, in-

deed, to obtain the sympathies of a town which is doomed to annexation, by setting it on fire and killing numbers of the inhabitants by exploding shells? And has the bombardment advanced the surrender by one single day? Not that we can see. If the Germans want to annex the town and break the French sympathies of the inhabitants, their plan would have been to take the town by as short a regular siege as possible, then besiege the citadel, and place the commander on the horns of the dilemma, either to neglect some of the means of defence at his disposal or to fire on the town.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE SHREWSBURY ELECTION AND THE NONCONFORMISTS.

In consequence of the death of the late Liberal member for Shrewsbury, Mr. W. J. Clement, three candidates for the representation have appeared in the field—Mr. Douglas Straight, in the Conservative interest, Mr. C. C. Cotes and Mr. Commissioner Kerr, in the Liberal interest. Mr. Cotes, who is a young man belonging to one of the county families, published the old Liberal programme, but it is silent upon many topics which have now come to the front. Mr. Kerr is an advanced Liberal, and willing to vote for every measure calculated to secure perfect religious equality. He consented to stand on one side at the general election, on the pledge of the Liberal party then given, to bring him forward whenever a vacancy should occur. Strangely enough, the Liberal Committee by a considerable majority now decline to fulfil that pledge, on the ground that Mr. Kerr is too thorough a Liberal, and therefore not likely to succeed in a borough like Shrewsbury. After a canvass, Mr. Kerr consented to withdraw, rather than divide the Liberal party.

Matters so standing, one or two Nonconformist ministers summoned a meeting of their friends, as they discovered that electors were rapidly pledging themselves to support Mr. Cotes, without inquiry as to his principles. This conference was held on Friday afternoon in the schoolroom of the Abbey Foregate New Church. Mr. H. B. S. Thompson, of the Education League, and Mr. Schnadhorst, of the Central Nonconformist Committee, were present, and urged the electors not to vote for any candidate who would not give satisfactory pledges with respect to the question of national education and other matters affecting religious equality. A general feeling seemed to prevail among those present that it was better to vote for a half-and-half Liberal rather than for a thorough Conservative—that it was better to have "half a loaf rather than no bread at all." It was agreed, however, to send a deputation to wait upon Mr. Cotes and ascertain definitely his opinions upon the most important matters affecting the future of religion in this country. The deputation consisted of the Rev. C. Croft, minister of the Abbey Foregate New Church; the Rev. George Wyard, minister of St. John's-hill Baptist chapel; and Mr. Warren Thompson. These gentlemen, accompanied by Mr. H. B. S. Thompson and Mr. Schnadhorst, waited upon Mr. Cotes. He, whilst asserting in general terms his willingness to support all measures for securing perfect religious equality, refused to say that he would vote against giving to school boards the power of determining the sectarian education to be given in rate-supported schools, or that he would vote against the extension of the same system to Ireland, though the full bearing of this was pointed out to him. He would not pledge himself to vote for the conversion of the permissive clauses in the Education Bill into compulsory clauses, not being clear that it was possible to compel attendance. In fine, he refused to give any distinct undertaking except upon this point, that he would certainly not vote for any measure tending to the separation of Church and State. The deputation having presented its report to the Nonconformist electors, some discussion took place, but no definite resolution was come to, some determining to withhold their votes from Mr. Cotes, and some to support him.

The same evening (Friday), a well-attended meeting was held in the Music Hall (over which Mr. Alderman Piddock presided), to urge the claims of the National Education League. Able and stirring speeches were delivered by Mr. Charles Hibbs, a working man of Birmingham, and Mr. Lloyd Jones, of London, after which a resolution was moved by the Rev. C. Croft, pledging the meeting to support the League; this was seconded by the Rev. G. Wyard, and carried unanimously.

On Monday afternoon a meeting of Nonconformists was held in the large room of the Lion Inn, to listen to an address from the Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, on the Government Education Bill, and the duties of Nonconformists in relation to it at the present time. The Rev. C. Croft took the chair. Mr. Dale traced the origin of the bill, and pointed out its obnoxious clauses and their bearing on the future. He showed the especial danger which was to be feared from an extension of the same system to Ireland. He reminded the audience that no man could appear as a Conservative candidate without distinctly pledging himself to maintain the unjust pre-eminence of the Anglican Church; and without counselling the Nonconformists to assume precisely the same position with regard to the Liberal party as Churchmen did towards the Conservative party, he (Mr. Dale) did urgently counsel them at once to claim for their distinctive principles a complete recognition in the Liberal programme. They must make it everywhere felt that they would not blindly accept any man, simply upon some general profession of liberal faith. He strongly urged upon them that at any cost they should withhold their votes from a candidate who was not prepared to amend the ob-

noxious clauses in the Government bill. During the first part of Mr. Dale's speech, he was interrupted by tumultuous uproar, but was at length allowed to proceed with his speech, which obviously produced a deep impression. A general conversation took place afterwards, in which the main objection to Mr. Dale's views was urged—namely, that it would split the Liberals into two parties, and result in the return of a Conservative. Mr. Dale replied to this objection, and strongly urged that this was a time for a battle of principle, and not of expediency. The meeting concluded amidst tremendous uproar and confusion, and was abruptly closed by the chairman dissolving it.

It should be stated that immediately before the holding of the above meeting, Mr. Lloyd Jones, of London, issued his address to the electors as a candidate. It contained a very full and satisfactory statement of political principles, and sound and definite utterances upon the education, and other specially Nonconformist, questions. At the close of the above meeting those who remained in the room placed Mr. Thomas Edwards in the chair, and passed unanimously the following resolution:—

That this meeting being fully aware of the importance of the education question, is nevertheless of opinion that it is not desirable to divide the Liberal interest in the borough thereon at the present time, and Mr. Lloyd Jones is therefore respectfully requested not to offer himself as a candidate. This resolution was printed and circulated throughout the town during the day.

In the evening of Monday a meeting was held to hear a statement from Mr. Lloyd Jones. The Lion Room, in which the meeting was to be held, was densely packed with "roughs," who shortly after Mr. Jones commenced his speech raised the most maddening din. The howls, cat-calls, shouts, and roarings were continued so long that Mr. Jones was compelled to desist, and at some personal peril to fight his way down through the room. He then addressed a vast mass of people from the steps of the Lion Hotel, expounding at greater length the principles set forth in his address. The confusion which prevailed in the town during the evening was very great. Mr. Lloyd Jones intends in future to address the electors in the open air, which will prevent the possibility of the packing process.

The nomination will probably take place on the 19th or 20th.

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE.

The following circular has been issued by the Executive Committee to the officers of the various branch committees:—

NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE.

Central Offices: 47, Abchurch-lane, Birmingham.

September 8, 1870.

Dear Sir,—A meeting of the Executive Committee of the League was held on Wednesday, September 7. One of the objects of the meeting was to consider the future action of the League, and to decide in what manner the influence of our organisation may be most usefully directed, so as to advance the principles upon which the League was founded.

In order to inform you clearly on this matter, it is desirable to recur to the formation of the League, in October, 1869. Four leading points of our programme were then affirmed, namely:—1. Local Rating, with Local Management. 2. Unsectarian Teaching. 3. Compulsory Attendance. 4. Free Schools.

It was contemplated that probably ten years might elapse before this programme could be carried into effect, and the subscription list was arranged in accordance with that expectation. In the course of one year, however, the League has made greater progress than could have been expected. The bill introduced by Her Majesty's Government embodied, though in a tentative and hesitating manner, several of the principles contemplated by the League. As finally amended, and passed into an Act, the Government measure recognises (1) local rating and local management; (2) a time-table conscience clause in all schools, grants to secular schools, and in rate-aided schools the extinction of "catechisms and formularies"; (3) compulsory attendance, at the option of school boards; (4) optional free schools within certain restricted limits.

We have thus obtained from the Government and the Legislature, the recognition of our leading principles—no slight measure of success as the result of one year's agitation—but the concessions are marred by their permissive character, and as regards the provision for religious teaching, the scheme of the Government is so arranged as to permit the imposition of a new Church-rate, and to offer a bonus to existing sectarian schools.

Our work, therefore, is very far from complete. It is necessary that the organisation of the League should be maintained, both as regards the Central Office and the branches, for the following, amongst other purposes:—

1. To assist in putting the Education Act in operation, so as to secure, as far as possible, the establishment of unsectarian, compulsory, and free schools.
2. To promote amendments in the Act, by converting the permissive into obligatory clauses, and securing the recognition of the principle of religious equality in rate-aided schools.
3. To resist the increase of Parliamentary grants to sectarian schools.
4. To watch the progress of educational legislation in reference to the Irish system.
5. To influence public and Parliamentary opinion by meetings, publications, petitions, and all other available means in favour of a national, unsectarian, compulsory, and free system of education; and with this view to secure the return of members to the House of Commons pledged to support the principles advocated by the League.

In fulfilling the programme above described, we look with confidence to the help of the branches now established throughout the country, and we shall be glad if you will bring this circular before your committee, and urge upon them the necessity and duty of assisting the Executive in carrying on the work and enforcing the policy of the League—the establishment of a system of

national education, rate-supported, unsectarian, compulsory, and free.

We are, Sir, yours respectfully,
JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.
JESSE COLLINGS,
Honorary Secretary.

FOUNDERING OF THE TURRET-SHIP CAPTAIN.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

According to a despatch from Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, dated from Her Majesty's ship Lord Warden, off Finisterre, September 7, the turret-ship Captain, which was on her second experimental cruise, foundered on the preceding night. She was close to the Lord Warden at two a.m. A south-west gale came on suddenly, with heavy squalls. At daybreak the Captain was missing. In the afternoon her boat and spars were found. There were more than 500 souls on board. The admiral thought that all on board perished, but it has since been ascertained that the gunner and about eighteen of the crew got away in one of the boats and landed at Coreubion, north of Cape Finisterre, on the evening of the 7th. They arrived at Portsmouth in Her Majesty's steamship Volage. It appears from the depositions of the survivors that the Captain turned bottom up in a heavy squall, and went down in three minutes.

Admiral Milne, in his report to the Admiralty respecting the loss of the Captain, says that on the evening of the 6th inst. the squadron was formed into three divisions, the Lord Warden (the Admiral's ship), Minotaur, and Agincourt leading, the Captain being the last, astern of the Lord Warden. At eight and ten p.m. the ships were in station, and there was no indication of a heavy gale, although it looked cloudy to the westward. At eleven the breeze began to freshen, with rain. Towards midnight the barometer had fallen, and the wind increased, which rendered it necessary to reef; but before one a.m. the gale had set in at south-west, and square sails had furlled. "At this time," Admiral Milne says, "the Captain was astern of this ship, apparently closing under steam. The signal 'open order' was made, and at once answered; and at 1.15 a.m. she was on the Lord Warden's lee quarter, about six points abaft of the beam. From that time until 1.30 a.m. I constantly watched the ship; her topmasts were either close reefed or on the lap, her foremast was close up, the mainsail having been furlled at 5.30 p.m., but I could not see any fore and aft set. She was heeling over a good deal to starboard, with the wind on her port side. Her red bow-light was all this time clearly seen. Some minutes after I again looked for her light, but it was thick with rain, and the light was no longer visible. The squalls of wind and rain were very heavy, and the Lord Warden was kept by the aid of the screw and after trysails with her bow to a heavy cross sea, and at times it was thought that the sea would have broken over her gangways. At 2.15 a.m. (the 7th inst.) the gale had somewhat subsided, and the wind went round to the north-west, but without any squall; in fact, the weather moderated, the heavy bank of clouds had passed off to the eastward, and the stars came out clear and bright, the moon, which had given considerable light, was setting. No large ship was seen near us where the Captain had been last observed, although the lights of some were visible at a distance. When the day broke the squadron was somewhat scattered, and only ten ships, instead of eleven, could be discerned, the Captain being the missing one." Search was made in all directions by the ships of the squadron, but nothing was seen of the missing ship. Afterwards portions of wreck belonging to the Captain were picked up, and the body of a seaman. Admiral Milne says he can come to no other conclusion than that the Captain foundered with all hands on board, probably in one of the heavy squalls between 1.30 and 2.15 a.m. of the 7th inst., at which time a heavy cross sea was running.

Gunner May arrived at the Admiralty on Monday with his own and seven other depositions, *précis* of which are there preparing for publication. The authorities object to giving the text of the original documents to the public, because it will be necessary, as soon as possible, to assemble a court-martial to inquire into the loss of the ship. The statements of the survivors confirm the report of Admiral Milne, that the gale had gone on increasing up to midnight. The Captain appears to have rolled heavily, and after the signal "open order" was given from the Admiral's flagship fresh sail was taken in from time to time, although it does not seem to have been thought necessary to keep the ship's head to the wind. Somewhere between half-past one and a quarter-past two the Captain, still under steam and sail, was caught in a severe squall, and shipped a large body of water. The watch was piped for the purpose of trimming sail to restore the equilibrium of the ship; but before assistance could be had from below, and while she was still lying helpless in the trough of the sea, a tremendous wave broke over her quarter, heeling the ship completely over. She remained bottom uppermost till the air in the hull was exhausted, and then sank.

One of the survivors states that the storm, in its full severity, was felt at about a quarter past twelve. From that time the ship heeled fearfully. Not only did the sea make a clean breach over the main deck, but it came so near the hurricane-deck that it might have been reached with the hand by anyone standing on it. This witness is convinced that the whole

time from the ship's being struck to her foundering was not more than three minutes. The moment it was seen that a body of water was rushing into the vessel, it became evident to those on deck that she must go down. Captain Burgoyne's voice was heard inquiring several times what amount of "list" the vessel had. Just before she capsized the indicator gave 18 deg., and orders were then given to rectify the "list," but before the hands could be got from below she heeled over and went down bodily.

The report of Gunner James May is that he was not on duty during the squall, but, hearing a noise in one of the turrets, he ascended it to ascertain the cause. He had just heard the reply made to Captain Burgoyne, that the ship was heeling eighteen degrees, when he was thrown out of the turret into the sea. Captain Burgoyne was thrown or swept overboard at the same time; and May appears to have thought that at one time Captain Burgoyne was one of the five men who got hold of the gunwale of the launch, and that the captain alone was washed away. The fact, however, seems to be that, after the ship capsized, Captain Burgoyne was seen clinging to the keel of the pinnace and that those in the launch were never able to get near enough to pull him on board. Besides the pinnace the Captain had amidships, on her hurricane-deck, three boats, one within the other, two launches, and a galley. When the frigate rolled over these boats were necessarily hurled overboard. Some eight or nine men got into the upper launch, the undermost filled and sank. Other men were seen clinging to the pinnace—one of them Captain Burgoyne. Some of them reached the launch, and were drawn in safely. May himself, a powerful man, assisting several. Voices were heard calling loudly to the captain to throw himself into the sea, and make for the boat; but before he could do that, or an effort could be made to reach him, a sea parted the boats, and it is to be feared the captain perished. The only hope which it is said Captain Commerell still has of the brave commander being picked up must lie in the frail chance of the pinnace afterwards righting and his getting into her; against which is to be put the fact that the sea was scoured for hours in all directions without any trace of her having been seen.

The survivors of the crew consider that the iron masts and the heavily-armoured turret, with its six 25-ton guns, rendered the ship top-heavy. Up to a certain point, her maximum of recovery, she was steady; beyond that there was no counterpoise to the heavy weight above the centre of gravity, and precisely at the point where the weight of the gun-turret and masts produced the greatest effect, the resistance began to decline.

The following brief account of the catastrophe has been furnished by an officer of another ship in the fleet:—"About midnight of Tuesday, the 6th, came on a gale off Cape Finisterre, which increased till the wind was technically said to have 'a force of nine'; a very heavy sea was running at the time. Next morning the weather was fine. All the ships of the combined squadrons were in sight and in company except the Captain. That day was spent in 'spreading' in search of her. Next morning a sufficient quantity of wreck was picked up belonging to her to justify the conclusion that she must have foundered and gone down, with all her 560 souls. Some bodies were also found, and part of her hurricane deck."

Amongst those on board, and who were lost, were, besides Captain Burgoyne and Captain Cowper Coles, the designer of the ship, a son of Mr. Childers, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and a son of Lord Northbrook, the Under-Secretary for War. They were both midshipmen, and about sixteen years of age.

We copy the following information from the *Daily Telegraph*:—"The loss of this great ship is attended with almost every circumstance to intensify the grief which will be felt on account of it in every part of these kingdoms. As our readers are aware, she was regarded as the triumph of principles in naval architecture of which she was the most perfect specimen yet produced, and which it was, and we may perhaps say is, believed will revolutionise the construction of ships of war—namely, the low freeboard, and the adoption in its entirety of the turret principle. She therefore excited the greatest possible interest among naval men, and her merits were more canvassed than those of any other ship in the navy, and she received probably more unbounded praise. The Captain was built by Messrs. Laird, of Birkenhead, under the direction of Captain Cowper Coles, the great advocate of the turret system, who received from the Government a *carte blanche* to make her a model vessel. She was a double-screw ship of 4,272 tons, and 900-horse power, and carried iron armour of varying strength, being in the most exposed portions as much as eight inches thick, and elsewhere ranging, fore and aft, and below the water line, between seven, four, and even three inches. In her two turrets she carried six guns of the heaviest calibre—an armament which made her more than the equal of any other ship in the navy, and enabled Vice-Admiral Symonds to say of her, 'She is a most formidable ship, and could, I believe, by her superior armament, destroy all the broadside ships of the squadron in detail.' The Captain was intended to be not only formidable, but in the highest degree seaworthy. She was believed to be so. Her trial trips had, it was thought, justified what was said of her by Captain Coles and Sir Thomas Symonds; and the disappointment of the confidence which the Admiralty and the nation had felt warranted in placing in her constitutes not the least bitter element

after the lamentable destruction of life in her loss. The Captain had made two successful voyages to Vigo, after her preliminary trip from Liverpool to the Channel before the present fatal cruise. On the first of these she set sail on the 10th of May, and returned on the 6th of June. It was of this voyage, during which she experienced a considerable variety of weather, that Sir Thomas Symonds made his report to the Admiralty, and in which, beside the remark we have above quoted with regard to her admirable fighting qualities, he stated, among other things, that she was perfectly seaworthy, and that, in spite of her low seaboard, she was a dry ship. We were also able to give the report of a passenger who accompanied her, and who bore out fully the impressions of the Vice-Admiral. There was appended to the official report a short criticism of Sir Robert Spencer Robinson, who generally endorsed the views of Sir Thomas Symonds. The second voyage of the Captain across the Bay of Biscay was made between the 6th of July and the 28th, and the reports made of the Captain were equally favourable. A melancholy interest attaches to the commencement of her last trip. At three p.m. on the 5th of August, the Portsmouth and Plymouth squadrons of the Channel Fleet formed into two columns in the Sound; namely, in the starboard column the Minotaur, Northumberland, Iconoclast, Marino; port squadron: Heron, Agincourt, Captain, Monarch. At four p.m. they sailed for Gibraltar. They were joined out by other ships of the fleet, among them by the Lord Warden, from which Admiral Milne's telegram was despatched. The Captain was commanded by Captain H. T. Burgoyne, V.C., and she had on board at the time she was lost over 500 men. Captain Cowper Coles, the designer of the ship, accompanied her on each voyage, and left with her in this.

Along the south-west coast the loss of the Captain has caused a most painful sensation, and the Admiral's office at Devonport, and the offices of the Plymouth and Devonport newspapers, were on Saturday surrounded by crowds of anxious inquirers respecting the fate of friends and relations.

Sir Sydney Dacres has received the following telegram from Her Majesty respecting the disaster:—"The Queen has heard of the dreadful catastrophe with deep sorrow, and wishes for all particulars. Her Majesty writes to Mr. Childers."

THE MASSACRE OF ROMAN CATHOLICS AT TIENTSIN.

In a letter to the *English Independent*, the Rev. J. Edkins, the well-known missionary of Peking, dated June 29th, gives the following information relative to this terrible event:—"Our usual tranquillity in China's metropolis was rudely broken in upon eight days ago by the first news of the Tientsin massacre. The first messenger reached the English Legation twenty-four hours after the occurrence of the horrid events I have now briefly to chronicle. We then learned that six French Sisters of Mercy, the French Consul, and several other Frenchmen had been killed by a mob. By later information the number has swelled to twenty in all, including nine Sisters of Mercy and two French ladies besides."

"For three weeks previously great excitement had existed among the people, who thronged round the cathedral and Sisters' House of Mercy in daily increasing numbers. These buildings are in thickly populated parts of the city. The former occupies a prominent position at the meeting point of three streams—east, west, and south. The south leads to the sea, the east to Peking, and the west, after a bend, to the southern provinces. The French were proud of the commanding position of their cathedral, now despoiled by fire of all its ornaments, but still standing. It is very conspicuous, and beside it stood the French Consulate, occupying buildings which were once Government property, and were used occasionally by high officials visiting the city. Boats passing up and down all saw the cathedral cross, the imposing tower, and the balustraded apartments of the Consular staff. The Sisters' house was in a position less prominent, half a mile to the south, on the east of the chief street leading to the foreign settlement. Two years ago they commenced a hospital here for foreign sailors, with a large school of foundlings and bought children. I saw it last autumn, calling there with the Rev. J. Lees, who went to read and pray with an English sailor who was in a sick bed there. The elegant little chapel was just finished. I looked in for a few moments on the evening service. There stood the Sisters in front of the altar in a row, with the serge gowns and white hoods which they wear everywhere. Little did I then think that these women, devoted to works of charity, living in their orderly way, teaching, attending mass, passing through the streets two and two on their way to the houses of the poor, would so soon be singled out as victims by a murderous mob, and he added to the long list of the Roman Catholic martyrs. On the fatal 21st of June they were all savagely slaughtered, and their bodies thrown into the burning chapel."

"For three weeks previously reports of approaching danger had been rife. Auditors of sinister appearance had flocked to the Protestant chapels, directing sharp glances at all parts of the buildings, so different from

ordinary. The usual belief in a medicine made of babies' eyes, and similar absurdities, reached its height of intensity. The Protestant converts became much alarmed. Mr. Lees did all in his power through the English Consul, Mr. Lay, whose conduct throughout has been of the noblest kind, to procure suitable proclamations adapted to pacify the people. A winter without snow, and a spring without rain, had made the time unhealthy, and many of the little foundlings had been carried in coffins through the streets to the cemetery. In a country without newspapers the wildest reports are spread and believed. Each man in a crowd accepts what his neighbour says, and immediately communicates it to twenty casual acquaintances. Mandarin proclamations are the only sources of authoritative information. In this case the Prefect of the city fomented instead of extinguishing the flame, by an insensate document, which stated that he had beheaded two kidnappers, that he would visit with the same punishment all who were brought to him, that he would bestow rewards on those who brought kidnappers to him, and that he fully sympathised with the people in their just indignation.

"It cannot be well doubted that the Prefect and other officers were agreed in this, and that they encouraged the spirit of rioting, in the hope that the French would be humbled, without, however, anticipating the wholesale massacre that actually ensued. Chinese mobs are often very harmless, but they may exhibit, as in this case, the most deadly ferocity. The death of the Consul by a thousand wounds filled them with mad excitement, and they then attacked French and Russian, man and woman, with indiscriminating rage."

"The blame of the cruel massacre must rest very much on the officers in charge of the public peace. It was their duty to issue tranquillising proclamations as the fatal 21st drew near. But they wilfully (so it appears) encouraged the misdirected rage of the people, and chose to regard them as full of patriotic zeal. Among them all Chung How, the Superintendent of Trade, is singled out as the only friend to foreigners. He is known to the people as such, and is spoken of by them as a traitor. Such men as the Prefect who praised the people for their zeal were lauded by them as true patriots in return. There was a complete subversion of moral judgment. Reason and moderation were known as treachery, contemplated murder and arson were regarded as noble zeal. The mandarins petted the people till they broke out, and then, seeing the extent to which they had gone, began to quake for the consequences."

"The *Gazette* states that M. Fontanier, the French Consul, shot at the district magistrate who came to the scene of the riot at the cathedral and Consulate, and that he was then set upon by the mob and immediately killed. The fact probably was that the district magistrate was incapable of controlling the madness of the mob, and turned his thoughts to soothing the Consul. But light will be thrown on this and other details when the facts are published. At the death of the Consul the other members of the Consulate became immediate victims, and nothing that has occurred is more grievous than the fact that a young bride, just arrived by the steamer Manchu, was among them. The mob then went to the Sisters' establishment, and completed there the work of destruction. Among the foreign merchants living between them and the cathedral were several Russian merchants. They crossed the bridge of boats just by, and attempted to reach the foreign settlement two miles lower down on the east side of the river. They were, however, intercepted by the mob, and three of them who were in sedan chairs were butchered with the coolies who bore the chairs. All the deaths were inflicted, it would seem, with savage cruelty. The rioters were like fiends. I do not attempt to record what I have heard."

"For the next twenty-four hours (some say forty-eight) the city was ransacked for Christians. Their houses were plundered, or they paid ransom. One Protestant convert paid 21. ransom for his little all, and then they proceeded to strip the house, he losing both money and goods, escaping only with the lives of all in the family. Three Protestant converts have not been yet heard of, and we are anxious about them, fearing the worst. As a rule, the Protestant converts were much more leniently dealt with than the Catholic. Some when taken by the rioters to the Yamen of the district magistrate, were sent back, after some detention, under escort from the Yamen. One of our converts, however, was not liberated from the Yamen jail till the next morning after his capture. A fact like this shows that the district magistrate was to some extent in league with the rioters. He and others seem to have acted just as if they believed in the complicity of the French in the kidnapping, and were willing to encourage the rioters in the retribution to be inflicted."

"For three weeks before the attitude of the people to the Christians was menacing, and they were continually hearing the most alarming reports. A crowd would surround the door of a chapel, and say to the assembled converts, 'Do you still continue to pray and sing? Do you not know that you are all going to be killed?' We hear that they have behaved most nobly throughout, and the hearts of the missionaries have been much cheered by the evidence they have had of the sincerity of the converts in their patient continuance in well-doing in the midst of most trying scenes."

"We now hear that an ambassador is to be sent to France to appease the Government of that country. An edict has also been issued to all viceroys and governors of provinces to give strict injunctions to the local officers under their jurisdiction to protect all mercantile and missionary establishments, and to

prohibit all sowing of lying and injurious reports against the Christians, as also to issue proclamations in accordance with the edict."

"The mob was anti-Christian and anti-French. If our converts fared better than the French converts, several tens of whom have been killed, it was because they were English."

"We have been favoured with the following extracts from a letter, dated Shanghai, July 2, written by an English gentleman of some position, who is not likely to take a partisan view of this deplorable event:—

"The Chinese, to use the mildest term, are mere children in their ignorance and superstition. There is scarcely a silly tale of sorcery, incantation, and witchcraft that was ever dreamt of in Europe in darkest ages, which is not reproduced and firmly believed in by a vast majority of the population of China. Their every-day life is mixed up with superstitious observances, conducted by priests the ignorance and folly of whom is only equalled by that of their dopes. These priests receive no education, except the teaching of the silly forms they have to go through. These forms amount in their highest development to burning tapers and paper models of earthly things—and descend to a knowledge of the number of, and interval between, the taps they have to give a small drum with brass drumsticks! These priests are often 'coolies' (i.e., the commonest workmen), who find work onerous, and who descend to the class of priests. Not a shop is opened, not a harvest sown or reaped, not a marriage or birth celebrated without the intervention of these priests. This being so, they have naturally an immense hold upon the populace, and, being the most ignorant class and the most superstitious, you can easily understand how they foster superstition and encourage ignorance of every kind."

"Amongst such a set of people as this the Catholics—both priests and Sisters of Mercy—come, they educate the young children and make strenuous exertions to fill their schools. To these ignorant people some ulterior object beyond the mere good to be done to others seems an absolute certainty on the part of the Catholics. Their priests, and possibly others in a higher station, suggest that they use portions of the human body for medicines, and an unfortunate epidemic at the hospital raises the suspicions of these fools to such a pitch that they examine some of the graves. You can easily imagine that once a man is so superstitious as to believe that a child's eyes or heart would be used for medicinal purposes, and so distrustful of the Catholics as to open the coffins coming from the hospital, whether they found their suspicions confirmed or not, there would be plenty of people ready to affirm that every doubt was put an end to, and the guilt of the Sisters of Mercy, &c., completely proved."

"This is what actually had taken place at Tientsin, and in the beginning of June there was an undoubtedly strong feeling amongst the people against the Catholics. This was strengthened by the apprehension of several kidnappers. Kidnapping is a common crime all over China, principally practised to obtain female children, who are sold to the brothel-keepers. These kidnappers are said to have confessed themselves to be employed by the Catholics. They may have done this in the hope of being screened by the foreigners, or they may have done it in the hopes that by pandering to the hatred of foreigners amongst some of the Mandarins by furnishing weighty evidence against the 'foreign devils,' they might escape through the favour of these officials."

"Up to this point, however much we may regret, and however much astonished many people at home may be at the depth of ignorance in which the common people of China still are plunged, there is nothing that we cannot understand. The next point is the one most important, and over which the most discussion will take place. Do the Chinese officials believe, or affect to believe, these absurd rumours?"

"The Chinese officials, as a class—although, of course, there are exceptions—are drawn from a set of men whose education is a set form; and, the more perfect a student is in this set form, the better chance he has of promotion. This set form is not like our stereotyped system of learning classics and mathematics—the means to an end—but it is the end itself. The highest Mandarin in the Empire might, and the Emperor must, be ignorant of everything except the classics of China—Confucius and his commentators. Since the forced intercourse between China and the Western States, it has become impossible for the Chinese to exclude from high positions men who know something of foreign nations; but the system of choosing magistrates remains the same, and it is the exception—and a very rare one it is too—that a man of practical knowledge, knowledge of the world, knowledge of statesmanship, or anything which would raise a European to greatness, attains to any high position. The result is, that the most influential magistrates are as ignorant of foreigners—and, in truth, as liable to superstition and prejudice—as the lowest of the people. The proof of this prejudice and ignorance is that a friend of mine translated to me a proclamation issued by a Taotai (that is, the chief permanent magistrate of a city), and another by a Che-hsieh (that is the chief criminal magistrate of the city), in which they actually reiterate the charges that the kidnappers are provided with drugs to enchain their victims, in order to sell them to people who use the eyes and other parts of the body for medicine! And this is in a district where the Catholics had been charged with these offences. They therefore ignorantly, or wilfully, encourage, instead of deprecating, the irritation of the populace against the priests. That this was the case at Tientsin I believe cannot be proved. The head man there (Chunghow) seems, at any rate, to have folded his hands and done nothing, although the state of excitement of the populace was well known, and it seems impossible for any one to exculpate him from blame."

"I have gone thus fully into a preliminary discussion of the state of feeling in China, because I know that I for one, while at home, could hardly have believed so much ignorance to have existed, and, since I left, fancy that the false views of the civilisation and greatness of the Chinese people have been increased rather than diminished. One more remark before I begin to detail facts. It cannot be doubted, say what either faction will, that there is a strong anti-foreign feeling amongst the bulk of the Chinese people. This may be grounded on prejudice fostered by the upper classes, but it does exist."

The excitement which I have described as existing at the beginning of June had increased to a very alarming extent some three or four days before the 21st. The French Consul (and indeed the English also) seems to have complained to Chungchow—the chief mandarin—and demanded, it is said, protection for his countrymen and the Sisters of Mercy. The probabilities are that Chungchow said there was nothing to fear; but the certainty is that he did nothing—he did not even issue a proclamation—although Chinese mandarins are as fond of doing this, as a panacea for all evils, as Englishmen are of writing to the *Times*. He had interviews with the English and French consuls and with the Foreign Commissioner of Customs up to the day preceding the massacre. He certainly was aware of the excited state of the populace, and he as certainly took no proper means to quell the excitement.

The 21st of June was the day on which this most terrible tragedy was enacted. The French Consul, Mr. Fontanier; his chancellor, M. Simon; Mr. and Madame Thomasin, his guests, and L. R. P. Chevrier, were the first victims. The French Consulate was burnt down; the cathedral was burnt down, and the hospital and children's school of the Sisters of Mercy was sacked and burnt, the poor Sisters having been murdered, and, it is said, shamefully outraged. Two Russian gentlemen and one lady were also caught by the mob, murdered, and thrown into the river; and another French gentleman and his wife were murdered: the latter, Madame Ohlmsimon, after the mob had dispersed, was found in Chinese costume, trying to escape, and it is said, murdered by the trained troops of Chungchow. Many Chinese in foreign employ, and two children (the latter accidentally, I presume) were murdered or smothered in the flames. This is a most terrible list of horrors, and heavy indeed is the blame upon the guilty ones. It is difficult to see how the greater portion of the guilt is to be shown not to attach to Chungchow.

Now let us hear what are the two stories as to the immediate cause of the *meute*. The one given by the Chinese, the other by the foreign correspondents of newspapers here.

Chungchow says that on the morning of the 21st M. Fontanier, the French Consul, came to his yamen (or official residence) in a very excited state, and demanded that he (Chungchow) should go with him to disperse the mob already collecting, and protect the French and their various property. Whereupon Chungchow begged him to be seated, and they would consider together the best means of protecting the French. To this M. Fontanier would not listen, but insisted on Chungchow's coming with him immediately, and ultimately, after very violent conduct, he (the French Consul) fired his revolver, either at Chungchow or some one in the yamen. Chungchow then went with the Consul, who hurried on ahead. Chungchow was detained at his threshold by a mandarin, who came to inform him that a mob was gathering round the house of the Sisters of Mercy. M. Fontanier, finding that Chungchow did not follow him, turned round and fired at him—missed him, but hit an attendant. M. Simon, the chancellor, also fired, whereupon the mob rushed on them, murdered them, and threw their bodies into the river. After this they went to the church and consulate, and the hospital, where they murdered anyone they came across and burnt down the buildings. Chungchow asserts that he was entirely taken by surprise by the fury of the mob and the excited behaviour of the French Consul, and that he was powerless to oppose anything the populace did.

If you want really to know the true facts which preceded the outbreak, I think, perhaps, the safest way would be to consider what I have said of the people and mandarins of China; consider that on Chungchow rests the burden of making out some story to exculpate himself; and consider the probabilities of his account of M. Fontanier's conduct being true. Then form your own guesses of what really took place, and I think you will be as near the truth as anyone but the poor victims and the Chinese officials can be.

The fact is, that only one of the Frenchmen who were in that part of Tientsin escaped. He managed in an almost miraculous manner to get through the mob and into Chungchow's yamen, where he was protected and brought in, the next day, into the English settlement, by Chungchow himself. Now, this man is the only one who can by any possibility give an account of the commencement of the fray.

Strangely enough, a private letter written by a man in whose house this Frenchman afterwards stayed, does not specifically contradict the story told by Chungchow. The letter was written shortly after the massacre, and professed to be gleaned from the accounts of Chungchow, another mandarin, and this very Frenchman. To-day, however, there appears a letter from Tientsin, in which it is stated that this Frenchman was in the next room when the consul was at Chungchow's yamen, and heard what passed, and that the consul was first stabbed in the leg by one of the Chinese, and, in fact, almost entirely contradicting Chungchow's version. Whether this is true or a newspaper report I know not. This man is the only possible eye-witness, all other accounts are the mere surmises or deductions of people knowing some of the facts but only having seen the smoke of the burning houses.

According to these accounts the whole affair was planned. They say the mob was assembled by beat of gong, and after the destruction had been effected it was dispersed in the same way. The trained soldiers were in the streets of Tientsin to protect the Chinese shops from pillage. The Chinese knew of the whole affair beforehand, for directly the rumour reached the English settlement of the outbreak, the Chinese servants told their English employers that there was not the least danger, as the whole affair was directed against the French, and against them only. The Russians were killed by mistake. Two of the party who spoke Chinese were released when they assured the populace that they were not French. The Chinese in Shanghai had news of the massacre two days before we heard of it by steamer. All this, it is said, proves that it was a preconcerted plan, which must have been known to the authorities, and yet the latter did not take the slightest step towards subduing the excitement or protecting the persons threatened with such danger. I have since ascertained, so far as it is possible to do so, that there can be no doubt of the substantial truth of this latter account. Quasi-friendly natives have given evidence

that proves that of Chungchow to be false, and confirms all that the French have from the first asserted.

In a subsequent letter, dated July 13th, the same correspondent says:—

I have been prevented from continuing my letter for some days, and I am sorry to say that the later news I have to give is anything but reassuring. As to the news from the north, the further accounts, taken from native sources as well as from foreign, seem to prove that there was complicity amongst the official and literary classes, and connivance, to say the least, amongst the magistrates themselves. Tseng-Kwo-Fun, the man who is termed "the second in the Empire," and the great anti-Foreign Minister, was ordered to Tientsin to investigate the circumstances of the riot—he has taken no notice of the order—but would you believe that the proclamation issued was to this effect:—"That serious disturbances had occurred between the people and the missionaries, and that Tseng-Kwo-Fun was to go and ascertain who were the guilty parties." First of all ignoring that a massacre had taken place, and speaking of it as an affray between the people and the missionaries, but leaving it to be supposed that the inquiry was to be as to whether the missionaries or the mob were in the wrong.

It is perfectly deplorable to watch the shiftiness and cunning of the Chinese officials. Not one is to be relied on for a moment to tell the truth or keep a promise. And after this outbreak, if some serious measures are not taken—very serious and very rapid—the life of not one of us in China is safe. There are very alarming rumours about the settlement of the probability of an attack here upon foreigners. We are pretty well prepared for them, and should probably be able to prevent anything of the same sort as occurred at Tientsin, but life and property to an immense extent might be sacrificed in a few hours, no matter how well prepared we may be.

So far as I know, the Chinese fancy that they can beat us now, and a great many acknowledge that their own opinion of the Tientsin massacre, is that it is part of a general scheme to expel foreigners from the country.

This is, in my opinion, a most critical period in the history of our relations with China. If the Chinese are allowed to arrange this matter without such concessions being made as will for ever prevent their hoodwinking us and concealing from the mass of the people that we are anything but vassals of the Emperor, we may look for numerous more tragedies such as the one just enacted, and ultimately the entire collapse of our trade and position out here. A most signal revenge ought to be taken upon Tientsin, for the attack was led by the heads of the guilds and the leaders of the fire brigades—all men of position, whose names are recorded at the yamen, none of whom have yet been punished or even molested. The destroyed buildings should be rebuilt with stone tablets recording the crime and its punishment. The Taku forts should be demolished, for so long as they exist the foreigners at Tientsin and the Ministers at Peking are prisoners. The Ministers should transact their business direct with the Emperor, after an official reception, for until that is done the Chinese will always say that we are tributary nations, and that the Ministers are hostages sent to the capital to answer for our good behaviour. These are the views that I have been forced to come to. I have striven against them ever since I came here, but I am sorry to say that every day of my stay amongst the Chinese has brought me fresh proof of their duplicity and want of faith, of their barbarity and want of anything that deserves the name of true civilisation. There are the traces of a civilisation passed and gone for ever, the traces of a time when the nation might have been great, but, as I think I have told you before, they are the living example of the work of conservatives. They may be held up as the warning to show people what results from a strict carrying out of Tory principle.

The Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong, has published a letter he has just received from the Rev. C. H. Butcher, the British chaplain at Shanghai. Mr. Butcher says that the more that is heard in China about the Tientsin massacre the more evident two facts appear—that the Chinese Government, or at least Tseng-kwo-fan, connived at the outrage, and that the British Government have been so misled by Mr. Wade that they will do nothing. If this is the case, Mr. Butcher says he is only echoing the general opinion when he says that neither foreign life nor foreign property will be safe in China. The Taotai at Shanghai sent to ask if the European residents wanted any Chinese troops. Both the English and French consuls replied—"Certainly not; they had had rather too much of the protection of Chinese troops at Tientsin." There the so-called soldiery helped to fire the Roman Catholic cathedral, and kept the ground while the nine Sisters of Charity were outraged and tortured.

An alarming telegram is published from Hong Kong, with the date of the 23rd ult. It says that the condition of Tientsin has become more unsatisfactory. The Chinese are becoming bolder, and are missing large numbers of troops there. A telegram received on Monday by a city firm from Grant's Transmongolian Telegraph Agency conveys the intelligence that "the Chinese are gathering troops, and that missionaries have been assaulted." From this it is to be feared that further troubles must be expected by the Europeans settled in China.

A Spanish novelist tells a story of a man who went to church on one of the days when souls may be bought out of purgatory for a trifling fee. As the priest came round he deposited his dollar on the plate. "Is my friend's soul out of purgatory now?" he inquired. "Yes," replied the ghostly man. "Are you quite sure?" repeated the affectionate inquirer. "Quite sure," answered the priest. "Well, then, they won't be able to put him back again," responded the relieved friend; "the dollar is a bad one."

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice were present the other day at a cricket-match played by the servants against the Prince of Wales's servants, in which Prince Arthur took part.

Principal Tulloch is a visitor at Balmoral, and preached before the Queen on Sunday.

It is stated to be the intention of the Queen, should her engagements permit, to call at Liverpool on her return from Balmoral, early in November, for the purpose of inspecting the equestrian statues of Her Majesty and of the Prince Consort in front of St. George's Hall. The first-named work has just arrived at Liverpool, and will be placed on its pedestal in a few days.

The Prince of Wales has arranged to visit Edinburgh about the 19th of October, to be installed as a patron of the Masonic Order in Scotland. His Royal Highness at the same time will lay the foundation-stone of the new infirmary. A great Masonic demonstration is expected on the occasion.

Prince Arthur has gone on a visit to the Duke of Sutherland at Dunrobin Castle.

Mr. Gladstone has also been to Nottingham, in connection with the affairs of the Duke of Newcastle.

Towards the end of last week Earl Granville had interviews with many of the representatives of foreign Governments. His lordship has since been at Walmer, but has now returned to London.

The Marquis of Westminster is to receive the Garter which was placed at Mr. Gladstone's disposal through the death of Lord Clarendon. The Garter placed at the Prime Minister's gift in consequence of the death of the Marquis of Hertford still remains to be disposed of.

Sir Rodrick Murchison intends, it is said, to give the sum of £6,000 for the endowment of a chair of Geology and Mineralogy in the University of Edinburgh.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is to be presented with the freedom of the city of Elgin on the 24th inst.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone visited the Workmen's International Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall on Thursday. The Premier was presented with a plough made by Mr. Johnson, of Castle Blayney, and with an "Ulster coat," or, as it is henceforth to be called, a "Gladstone" coat, made of Irish frieze. After having spent two hours in the building, Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone left, expressing themselves highly pleased at their visit, and promising to pay a second one before the exhibition closes. Lord Granville came to the exhibition with the Premier, but did not remain long.

FAREWELL SOIREE TO BABOO KESHUB CHUNDER SEN.

On Monday evening a farewell *soirée* was given at the Hanover-square Rooms in honour of Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen. The chair was taken by Mr. C. Thomas, President of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association. There was a numerous attendance, the large hall being full, the majority, as usual on these occasions, being ladies. The meeting having been addressed by the Revs. Professor Plumptre, W. Brook, W. Ierson, G. Murphy, Dawson Burns, Professor Albites, Vice-President of the "Société de la Libre Conscience et du Théisme Progressif," bade Mr. Sen a cordial farewell in the name of his countrymen. Miss Emily Faithfull, who followed, claimed the honour, on behalf of the ladies, of making the shortest speech of the evening. She thanked Mr. Sen especially for his disinterested efforts for the elevation of women; or, rather, she would not say "disinterested," fully believing that, in elevating woman, man drew down blessings on his own head; and, in the words of the Laureate, "Woman's cause is man's—they rise or fall together." Mr. Sen, on coming forward, was received with enthusiastic cheers, the assembly rising *en masse*. He had not been in England six months, he said, and would give some of his earliest impressions of things. They may prove unpalatable; still, "It would from many a blunder free us, to see ourselves as others see us." The first thing that evoked his wonder in England was the shops. He realised the idea that the English were a nation of shopkeepers. If all these were the sellers, where, he asked himself, could be the buyers? The next thing that struck him was the Art of Puff. English activity troubled him. The Englishman was like the Ghost in "Hamlet"—"hic et ubique"—never at rest. An English dinner was a mystery to him. The ladies' dress alarmed him. He did not believe, even, in woman's infallibility; and devoutly hoped the Girl of the Period would never turn up in India. He noticed the ladies' hair was much longer than in India; but he had been told there was something inside the hair! Then he passed to the deeper social life of England. He was greatly distressed by poverty and pauperism. God help and bless the poor of London! Intemperance was growing in India, but was not the curse it is in London. He found caste in England, too—not religious, but social. "Your rich man is a Brahmin," he said. But now for the bright side. He was gladdened most of all by the charities of London, where he found 170 societies for doing good, with an aggregate income of three millions. Temperance societies and Bands of Hope did much to mitigate the evils against which they were directed; but his

great theme of admiration was an English home and family—"the bright and loving faces of English children." He was amazed at the power of public opinion in England, and begged all to aid in bringing its force to bear in India. With regard to religious life, he found English Christianity too sectarian, too muscular, and too material. The English seemed to know nothing of introspection or meditation. There was a tendency to press God outside, and to see Him in forms and dogmas. He concluded a very lengthy speech with a cordial acceptance of the sympathy shown by this farewell; and the meeting separated, after singing an appropriate hymn.

Foreign and Colonial.

ITALIAN ADVANCE ON ROME.

The *Official Gazette* of Italy announced on Saturday last that, on the proposition of a Council of Ministers, the King had given orders to the Royal troops on Sunday to enter the Pope's territory.

Signor Visconti-Venosta, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has addressed a circular to the representatives of Italy abroad, dated the 7th inst. These documents, and the instruction given by the President of the Council to the Count di San Martino, establish the necessity of the Italian troops occupying those points of the Roman territory which may require their presence in order to ensure the inviolability of the Italian soil and the security of the Holy See. The troops will leave the populations at liberty to carry on their own public administration, and will take no part in any act that might prejudice any political or ecclesiastical question whatever. The Italian Government, moreover, declares itself ready to come to an understanding with the Foreign Powers upon the arrangements for the sovereign independence of the Roman Pontiff, and expresses a hope that His Holiness will accept the Conservative and tutelary action of Italy for his own sake and for that of the Roman people.

On Saturday Count San Martino had an audience of the Pope, to whom he presented a letter from the King of Italy, in which the hope was expressed that the Pontifical troops would avoid all conflicts with those of Italy. It is stated that the Pope is preparing a formal protest against the entry of the Italian troops into the Papal territory, but has, nevertheless, given orders to his troops not to resist them.

According to one account the Papal troops are preparing to defend Rome. The Pope has been solicited to leave Rome, and to go on board an English frigate. What resolution he will take is as yet unknown.

On Monday the Italian troops crossed the frontier. The following telegrams have been published:—

"FLORENCE, Sept. 12 (Evening).—The brigade Savona, passing through Papal territory, met with an enthusiastic reception at Aprano. General Bixio's camp was last night at Montefiascone, the garrison of the place having withdrawn without striking a blow. Italian troops occupy the town of Bagnorea, where 20 Zouaves and officers surrendered. The Italian troops are marching forward. The Papal troops have cut the railway between Ceccano and Frosinone."

"FLORENCE, Sept. 12 (Evening).—General Cadorna has issued a proclamation, addressed to the Romans, assuring them that he does not bring war, but peace and order, and will leave the administration to them. He says:—"The independence of the Holy See will not be violated." At Messina, Catania, and other towns, enthusiastic demonstrations have taken place, the people shouting everywhere, "Viva il Re." The Commander of the native Papal forces has been arrested because he refused to fight. Several other communes are taking part in the insurrection."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A gold field, likely to be profitable, has been discovered near the Irwin River, Western Australia, about 250 miles from Perth, the capital.

The South Australian Government are rapidly pushing forward the overland telegraph line northward to join the submarine cable with India.

Her Majesty's gunboat *Trinculo* was run into on the night of the 6th September by the Spanish merchant steamer *Moratin*, and cut in two. The crew, with the exception of two men, appear to have escaped into the *Moratin*.

The Hindoo widow, who lately left her friends on embracing Christianity, and whom the Calcutta High Court decided could not be compelled to return to them, had withdrawn herself of her own accord from the care of the missionaries and gone back to her friends.

A Bombay telegram says it is officially announced that the Viceroy will leave Simla on the 4th of October, when he will open the Sutlej Bridge, after which His Excellency will proceed through Rajpootana, where all the chiefs will assemble at a grand durbar which Lord Mayo will hold.

STATE OF ALLAHABAD.—With regard to the reported Sepoy mutiny, the *Times* makes the following announcement:—"Information has been received at the India Office that it is utterly untrue that, as stated in telegrams from India, a native regiment at Allahabad threw down its arms in a spirit of insub-

ordination. The India Office has ascertained that there is no cause for fearing a disturbance at that station, and the apprehension felt by the European residents appears to have been groundless."

AN OLD FOX WITH A NEW FACE.—A new Fenian association has been started at St. Louis, to be called the Irish National Brotherhood, to have its headquarters in that city. It presents as recommendations the following peculiarities:—No salaried officials; the retention of funds by the local branches until required by the Brotherhood in Ireland; and a central council, to consist of seven members, instead of a President, Chief Executive, or Senate, formerly recognised by the Fenians.

HOW A CAPITAL WAS SAVED FROM FIRE.—The city of Ottawa in Canada has had a most providential escape from a terrible conflagration, which has devastated the country all round for miles and miles. The city is surrounded on all sides by immense forests, which on the south and west come quite up to the houses. On the north and east the river divides the city from the bush, but as along its banks 30,000,000 pieces of dried and sawn timber were stored up, it was evident that if the fire once reached these nothing could save the city. The fire originated in the bush, and as long as the weather continued calm it excited no apprehension, but a violent storm having sprung up, it fanned the flames into a blaze, which travelled as rapidly as an ordinary horse can trot. The outlying villages were soon lapped by the devouring element, the unfortunate inhabitants having no time to save anything; and the people of Ottawa were startled one morning at seeing men, women, and children, many of them seriously burnt, flying for shelter to their town. The wind continuing, the city was soon enveloped in a thick smoke, while sparks and ashes began to fall thickly in the streets. The following morning it was discovered that the fire, which had hitherto burnt in large patches, had formed a junction, and was advancing on the city in a complete circle. The smoke became almost suffocating, shutting out the light of the sun, and the sparks fell thicker than ever. The citizens were thoroughly alarmed, the wealthy amongst them began to leave the city for places lower down the river. Every effort to put out the fire failed; as fast as it was extinguished in one part, it reappeared a few yards off, running under the dry, spongy turf. There remained one resource—to break down the dam of the Rideau river, and flood the forest. This was a desperate remedy, for it involved the sweeping away of roads, bridges, and culverts, and the swamping of all the lower part of the town. But the peril was so imminent that the Government hastily resolved it should be done, and so hurriedly was it executed that many people narrowly escaped with their lives, there having been no time to warn them. The breaking of the dam flooded the immediate country to the depth of about three feet, and happily, saved the city. In the course of the night the flames receded farther and farther, and the smoke gradually lessened, till next day the sun became visible.—*Letter in the Echo.*

Crimes and Casualties.

On Monday afternoon a middle-aged man was seen to drink something from a small bottle in High-street, Bow. He then went into a pastrycook's shop, asked the shopkeeper to send for a doctor, and immediately dropped down dead. From papers found upon him he is supposed to be a retired army surgeon. An official envelope was found upon him with the printed words, "On Her Majesty's Service," also "India Office." The address was "Surgeon J. Kearney, 39, Olesca-road, Forest Gate, Essex."

Dr. Lankester held an inquest on Monday at the Middlesex Hospital on the body of Emily Drummond, aged forty-one, who committed suicide by taking a quantity of oxalic acid on Saturday afternoon. To procure the poison she made use of a bonnet-maker's card, and said she wanted it to clean hats. She had once before attempted to commit suicide, and had then stated that she believed her husband had formed an improper connection with another woman. The husband, however, denied that there was any foundation whatever for such a suspicion. The jury found a verdict of "Temporary insanity."

Early on Wednesday morning the house of Mrs. Martha Wormington, lady of the manor of Sandleworth Heath, near Fordingbridge, Hants, was broken into by three men, who seized Mrs. Wormington, tied her hands behind her, and beat her severely about the head. They then ransacked the house, and took away about £6 in cash. Mrs. Wormington remained in the condition in which the burglars left her the whole of the night, and was released soon after daybreak by a passer by, who heard her cries for help. It appears to have been her invariable custom to remain alone in the house, and the burglars were no doubt aware of this fact, and were well acquainted with the premises.

Mr. Marlin, the Windsor coroner, held an inquest on Monday night respecting the death of Mr. James Lipscombe, aged sixty-nine, a fruiterer at Eton. He had lately complained of weakness, and on Sunday evening, immediately after having prayed at a prayer-meeting in the Wesleyan chapel at Windsor, he fell down dead in his pew. Mr. Pearl, surgeon, stated that when he was called to attend the deceased he was quite dead. There was nothing to indicate from what he died. His partner attended Mr. Lipscombe about twelve months ago for partial paralysis. That showed there was some disease of the brain, and a person so affected was likely to a sudden attack of apoplexy, which no doubt was the cause of death.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes."

About midnight on Wednesday Mr. William Davis, of Brentford-end, was awakened by a noise at his bedroom window. He lay quiet for a few minutes, and, watching, saw a man's arm come through a broken pane of glass, unfasten the window, and slowly open it. The moon was shining full on the man's face, and Mr. Davis had a perfect view of it. He jumped from his bed, and, having no weapon near, called to the other occupants of the house, and the burglar disappeared. Mr. Davis and a neighbour then went out in search of a policeman, and meeting one returned and searched the outhouses. The door of a closet in the yard was found fastened inside, and on its being forced a man was found concealed inside, and, after a struggle, secured and taken into custody. On Monday morning he was taken before General Tremenhore, at the police-court, and remanded.

A heartrending disaster occurred on Thursday to a boatload of youngsters from the training-ship *Chichester*, off Greenwich. The boat was in charge of Mr. Roach, boatswain instructor, who, with a waterside missionary named Hines, was taking eighteen boys to the *Fisgard* flagship for the purpose of passing them for the Royal Navy. The boat was under sail beating up against the tide, when the *Cormorant*, screw steamer, bound for Cork, ran into her just off Woolwich Arsenal, and cut her in two. The clergyman and seven boys were drowned, the boatswain and the other boys were picked up by watermen and others. One of the boys saved from drowning is seriously hurt. The lads were all about sixteen years old. The pilot of the *Cormorant* denies that his vessel was to blame for the disastrous boat accident in the Thames on Thursday. He states that he stopped the steamer as soon as possible, and sent back the lifeboat, but all the rescued boys had by that time been picked up.

THE SECOND REPORT OF THE MILITARY EDUCATION COMMISSION is now ready. It contains numerous suggestions for the regulations of army, children's, and adult schools, the Normal and Model Schools at Chelsea, the Hibernian School, and the School of Musketry at Hythe. The commissioners recommend that the scale of pay and pension granted to the teachers should be augmented, and that the advantages of their position should be generally increased. An extension of the system of regimental education, and an addition to the number of recreation rooms and lecture-halls, is also proposed.

COTTAGE HOSPITALS.—Originators of new schemes commonly find their plans so altered and improved upon by others that their name seldom clings to their work; and if any leaven of personal ambition ever actuated them, a few years of experience of life may suffice to cure it. But the good that the founder—as he may fairly be called—of the Cottage Hospital system, Mr. Napper, has been able to initiate appears likely to connect itself permanently with his name and typical institution; for the simplicity of his plan is so perfect and "four-square" as probably to maintain its superiority against all emendation and speculative improvement. Whether he took the hint of it from a small institution of a like character at Wellow, in Notts, which claims an earlier existence, or from the cottage hospital solely for eye and ear cases established as far back as 1818 at Southam, near Warwick, we know not; but certain it is that the movement, as such, was started by Mr. Napper, a medical practitioner at Cranleigh in Surrey, in the year 1859, a severe accident in the village being the immediate cause which secured the co-operation of the rector of the parish, and gave the first impulse to a good work which is even now scarcely beyond its infancy. From the standpoint of a small rent-free cottage, which this rector, Mr. Sapte, put at Mr. Napper's disposal, this gentleman organised a system the characteristic excellence of which consists in its providing in a humble cottage all the essential comforts and appliances of a hospital, without any of its disadvantages and drawbacks. It is a demonstration of the wisdom of not "despising the day of small things," so cogent as to induce a doubt whether "small things" are not sometimes better than great; for whereas Cranleigh Village Hospital—begun in a small way, having all its bedrooms in the roof with dormer windows, in fact, preserving all the marks of the purely cottage type in its internal arrangements—is notable for its successful working and its wonderful economy, more ambitious and expensive structures, which have aimed at architectural superiority, at a more complex scheme of working, or at model results bidden for by model management, have in almost every instance turned out failures. Built of brick as to its lower story, and of wood-framing with lath and plaster walls, weather-tiled on the outside as to the upper—with a kitchen, brick-floored, and entered direct by a porch, a back kitchen, and a comfortable sitting-room for convalescents—it is exactly what might be taken for an average cottage under a conscientious landlord. A staircase, with a rope for handrail, leads from the kitchen to two small bedrooms, in one of which are two beds, and in the other three. Besides these there is in the upper story a room for the nurse, beyond which is an operation-room, with one bed, for cases of severity. This last is a room which should always be provided, and which, though it may fitly serve as a surgery or dispensary, ought never to be contrived to do double duty as lavatory or bath-room, for fear of depressing effects to patients.—*Saturday Review.*

Literature.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Woman: Her Mission and Her Life. By the late Rev. ADOLPHE MONOD, of Paris. Translated by the late Rev. W. G. BARRETT. Fourth Edition, Revised. (Hall and Co.) There is such extraordinary wealth of Christian counsel in this little book that we cannot allow the circumstance of its having been some twenty years before the English public to prevent our making a somewhat lengthy reference to this new edition, or, to speak more guardedly, this old edition with a new cover and title-page. There are other special reasons why we should depart from an established custom in this instance. There is, and there seems likely to be, for some weeks to come, an almost unprecedented dearth of new books of real merit, and it will neither grieve nor surprise us to find that the treasures of the past are again explored and made to yield supplies to the present generation, which in a former age were welcomed only by the few. But the name of Adolphe Monod alone may arrest our attention, and awake a new interest to-day. Paris is, as we all believe, about to reap to the whirlwind what she has so long sown to the wind. Who can tell how far it might have been otherwise had such voices as M. Monod's been multiplied even ten or twentyfold in that worldly city? Who shall say that even now, in France's hour of humiliation, many a French heart may not find solace and strength in the words which awoke so feeble an echo when they were first uttered? Whether or not France will listen to one of her most faithful sons, there are thousands of women in our own country who will treasure this little volume, the translation of two discourses delivered in Paris in 1848, as among the most potent agencies which have moved the hidden springs of their being, and led them to gird themselves anew to the fulfilment of their distinctive mission. And this is saying no more than that M. Monod has so forcibly illustrated and expounded the Scriptural allusions to his theme as to bring his hearers and readers to feel that the Christian woman alone can fulfil her proper mission.

"I confess (he says) that when I began to meditate on the mission of woman, I was far from having, on a subject so little studied, the firm and decided opinions I now possess. I resolved to open the Bible to listen to, and to be led by it, and I was astonished to find there, instead of some few ideas scattered over its forty books, and throughout its fifteen ages, only one doctrine developing itself from book to book, and from age to age; passing from the bands of prophets to that of apostles, as a work that the first workman could only sketch, and which he transmits to another to fill up; as a doctrine, the wisdom, the plenitude, the clearness, the simplicity, the purity of which, beaming even now amidst our profound and universal ignorance, excited in me a wonder which increased with my meditation. For all that was thus revealed to me by degrees concerning the position of woman, at first sight apparently so limited, we must search for ourselves in the Bible; but once found, there she appears clothed with a ministry as beneficent as it is glorious. The relations she sustains teach me;—I see that such as she is in the Book, that ought she to be in the life—great but concealed. Let me say it boldly, that of all religions, and of all systems, Scripture alone has comprehended woman. Alone, for between the two opposite tendencies of the Southern and the Germanic races; of antiquity and of the middle ages—the one making her the slave, the other the arbitress of man's destinies—it has spared her at once this excess of dignity and this excess of degradation. Alone, in short, by one of those combinations of truth, in which the world only sees strange contradictions, it has, at the same time, restored and subjected her, by assigning her a task as noble as it is humble, and as pleasant as it is devoted."

This position is amply supported by the discourses before us. M. Monod is not a theorist or a dreamer; he is neither a flatterer nor a cynic. Nor do these sermons bear the character of orations, eloquent as they are, both in thought and utterance. Truth is stamped on every page, on every sentence; truth patiently extracted as ore from the mine, but without alloy. The keynote of the whole is this:—"Woman's vocation is a vocation of 'love.' To man is committed authority; to woman influence. Commenting upon the words in Genesis, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him 'an help meet for him,'" he says:—

"Made to think, to speak, to love, his thought seeks another thought to reveal and quicken itself; his speech is lost sorrowfully in the air, or only awakens an echo which mutilates it, but cannot reply; his love knows not where to fix itself, and falling back on itself, threatens to become a barren egotism; in short, all his being aspires to another self, but this other self does not exist; there is found for Adam no help meet. The visible creatures that surround him are too far beneath him, and the invisible Being who gave him life is too much above him, for their condition to be his. Then God makes the woman, and the grand problem is resolved! Behold what Adam needed; this other self which is himself, and which is, nevertheless, not himself! The woman is a companion, whom God has given to man to charm his life, and to prolong it, by sharing it with him. Her vocation by birth is a vocation of love!"

This was before the Fall; how has that event affected the relationship?

"God punishes her, for the love withdrawn from Him, by the exquisite anguish, without which she cannot henceforth multiply the human race, and for the humility she lost sight of, by abasing her position one degree; 'thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.' The woman is compelled to wait upon her husband for all she desires; behold her in-

creased dependence; and as she lives under his dominion, behold this dependence converted into submission. Nevertheless, do not imagine that she ceases on that account to be to the man a help meet for him. Alas! and when was this tender help more needed by him? Such is the compassion of God, that the same moment he humbles the woman, he confers upon her a ministry greater and more saving than ever! As if to raise her, and to re-establish between the two sexes the lost equilibrium, it is through a virgin that one day He bestows on man that wished-for Redeemer who shall destroy the works of the devil; and the first name by which He announces His Son to the world, is that of 'the seed of the woman'; saying, 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' Thus the relationships are not essentially altered by the fall: the vocation of woman is still that of love, and her position that of humility. Only each has assumed a character more serious; the love has become more spiritual, and the humility more profound. Ashamed of herself, but anxious to reinstate herself, the woman only lives to repair the evil she has caused to the man by profusely pouring on him, along with the consolations which may ameliorate the present bitterness of sin, those warnings which may prevent its becoming a bitterness for eternity."

The extracts which follow scarcely need connecting words of ours.

"I have not ascended this pulpit to flatter woman, but to sanctify her. In saying that nature herself has prepared you for the task imposed on you by Scripture, I do not mean that, in your natural state, you can fulfil it. By one of those singular contradictions which the Fall has introduced amongst our race, disturbing the work of creation without destroying it, woman is at once fit and unfit for her task; fit, because she has certain dispositions marvellously adapted to it; unfit, because there are other dispositions which counteract these. 'An enemy hath done this.' In that same heart where the hand of God deposited the precious germ of a life conformed to the mission of woman, he has insinuated contrary germs which choke or neutralise the others. He has done more! These living germs he has attempted with infernal skill to find, in order to corrupt them, and to derive from a wholesome seed a noxious fruit.

"Yes, these precious resources with which the Creator has endowed you in order to accomplish your work, the tempter knows how to denaturalise in order to make of them obstacles to this work itself. Under his mysterious and formidable influence, we see this reserve degenerate into false shame; this activity into recklessness; this vigilance into curiosity; this art into cunning; this penetration into censoriousness; this promptitude into levity; this fluency into idle talk; this grace into coquetry; this taste into love of fashion; this susceptibility into caprice; this aptitude into presumption; this influence into intrigue; this empire into domination; this tenderness into nervousness; this power of loving into jealousy; and this desire to be useful into a desire to please. It is thus that the two principal tendencies which we have recognised in woman—humility and love—have become degenerate.

"It is needful that this heart of woman, so warm but so passionate, so tender but so jealous, so delicate but so susceptible, so lively but so prompt, so sensitive but so irritable, so strong but so weak, so good but so bad, should be subdued and transformed, that this overflowing spring of life, brought back to its legitimate source, may create all around the flowers of humility and the fruits of love.

"Subdued and transformed, but by whom? Ah! from whom else could you expect this grace but from the Son of God? who, not content with having, by the inspired writers, restored you to your place, and revealed to you your mission, has come Himself to show you its ideal in His life, and the way to it by His cross! Jesus living, the perfect type of the gentle as of the active virtues, is the example of woman as well as of man; and Jesus crucified, the only sacrifice for sin, is the one source of that holy love which, only varying in its application, delivers both man and woman from the power of sin. But, if as man and woman, Jesus could find access more easily to one than the other, would it not be to woman? He who is love; He who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; He whose whole life was an emptying of himself, and a self-sacrifice; He, in short, who came to this earth to exercise the greatest love in the greatest humility? Am I deceived, my sisters—for it is to you I speak—am I deceived in thinking that there is nothing upon the earth more in sympathy with Jesus Christ than the heart of woman? Superfluous question! Ah, no! I do not deceive myself, or your heart would have denied all its instincts! The Christian faith, which goes so thoroughly to the depths of humanity, but yet does no violence to its natural powers, adapts itself so marvellously to all the wants of your moral being, that you cannot be truly women except on the condition of receiving the Gospel; the Christian woman is not only the best of women, she is also the only woman. Oh, ye who wish to accomplish the humble, but beneficent mission of your sex, behold the way: beneath the cross, or nowhere!"

Have we not already pleaded most effectively for this choice little volume? But we must not omit one further reference to it. It is important that a woman should rightly estimate the sphere of her influence as an help-meet for man; but the author has, as he should have, a word for and of mothers:—

"Hear the Bible. What is the object of that short preface which is placed at the beginning of the life of Samuel, if it is not to prove that this holy man of God—this mighty man of prayer—this first link in the chain of prophets—this great reformer of State and Church—became such by the vows, by the fidelity, and by the thanksgiving, of Anna, his mother? How well does that narrative make up for the brevity with which Scripture elsewhere speaks of a Moses, a David, or a Timothy, whilst at the same time it gives the key to the apparently minute solicitude with which it names in passing the mothers of the Kings of Judah. Open the annals of the Church. Who can hear the name of St. Augustine pronounced—that burning light, twice nearly extinguished, and twice rescued from sensuality and from heresy, in order to glorify God, holy and true, down to the most remote posterity, without recognising,

with him, in this double deliverance, after God, the hand of the tender, the patient, the humble Monica? But know that Chrysostom, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nazianzen, and many others who have followed in their steps, have had each of them their Monicas, whom we ungratefully forget whilst tasting with delight the fruit of that which she has sown. But it is not necessary to digress so far; cast your eyes around you. Take the trouble to search out the ways of God, and you will find that the greater part of the servants of Jesus Christ, of whom our own age can boast, are indebted to their mother for the first dawn of their piety. A short time since, in a ministerial conference, in which were gathered together a hundred and twenty American pastors, united in one common faith, each one was invited to make known the human instrumentality to which he attributed, under the Divine blessing, his change of heart. Do you know how many of these gave this honour to their mother? Out of one hundred and twenty, upwards of one hundred!"

Appleton's Handbook of American Travel (Sampson Low and Co.) was probably imported in anticipation of the Evangelical Alliance Conference, now deferred. It will be a melancholy satisfaction to intending visitors to look through these pages, although a twelvemonth may intervene before they can practically test the value of the book as a handbook of travel. This is the tenth annual edition of the work, and it should therefore be quite reliable in its information, and well adapted to the requirements of tourists. The plan upon which it is constructed is to give a history and description of the various States and cities comprising the Northern and Eastern tour, the names of the States included in this division being New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and the British dominions. Following the statistics of the States and cities are descriptions of their situation and surrounding scenery and configuration, the principal hotels, places of amusement, means of conveyance, places of worship, pleasure excursions, &c., &c. Two or three maps of principal cities and various skeleton tours combine to render the book a complete guide to the intending visitor, while it does not lack matters of interest to those who know the country only by repute.

Twenty-two Years' Missionary Experience in Travancore. By the Rev. JOHN ABBS. (John Snow and Co.) Mr. Abbs has given in this volume a sketch of mission life in the south of India as experienced by himself during a long series of years. There was not much to record beyond that which many a faithful servant of God in heathen lands has the happiness of testifying, as the result of his labours, and in proportion to his faithfulness, namely, that the suspicion and opposition of natives is disarmed, and the soil is thus prepared for the reception of the Gospel of peace. Mr. Abbs's sphere of teaching lay both amongst Mahomedans and Hindoos, and he found both classes ready to give him a fair hearing, while many of them regularly attended his services. The book is not one which will take its place with those records of missionary enterprise with which many readers are familiar.

The Alexandra Gift Book. Edited by THOMAS ARCHER. (Clarke and Co.; Nisbet and Co.) This handsome book, which should have received a notice some months ago, was published for the benefit of the Alexandra Orphanage. Its contributors are various, and their contributions are gratuitous. The paper, printing, illustrations and binding, are all of a character befitting the object aimed at in the production of the volume. It is handsomely got up, and the literary matter is sufficiently interesting to beguile a listless hour. We can only hope that it will be set in a prominent place on many a drawing-room table, and that it may plead more eloquently than "special appeals" for the excellent institution whose name it bears.

GLEANINGS FROM AMERICAN JOURNALS.

CLERICAL VACATIONS.

But for all his felicities of coddling, the clergyman pays a heavy price. He is bothered by women; he is criticised by men; once in seven days he is weighed in a balance, or discussed by the retiring crowd; if he be a man of brains and culture he is in continual danger of preaching over the heads of his congregation; and, if he be a man of culture without brains, he must laboriously work upon most of the secular days at his warping and wooing of a brilliant cento for next Sunday. If he be a man of ardent piety, he is continually worried by the tepid-drawn condition of his society. "Alas!" he cries, "if they would only be hot, or, at any rate, cold!" If a pastor thus worked and worried demands leave of absence, and runs away from the fold for a time, there is nothing in his bolting which is in the least to be wondered at. The main difficulty, we venture to suggest, is too much sermon-making. The congregation is critical by habit, and knows, by a sort of instinct, a good sermon from a bad one. We do not say that this is an intelligent knowledge, for it reminds us, we confess, of Jeremy Taylor's rustic audience gaping with delight at his Latin and Greek quotations. But church-goers soon come to recognise an able preacher, without any proper appreciation of his ability. . . . Fortunately, or unfortunately, at least among Protestants, preaching sermons has become the most important function of the priestly office, with certain results which are to be deplored, and with others which are to be commended. But wardens, and vestrymen, and standing committees may be assured that they will in the end lose nothing by allowing the brains from which they expect so much, an occasional season of repose and

recreation. No organ of the human body so rejoices, after hard work, at an interval of rest, as that pulpy prisoner within the walls of the cranium; while there is no organ which so rapidly and satisfactorily achieves recuperation. It is quite wonderful to find how easy brain-work is made by a week or fortnight of perfect rest—of rest from thinking, and writing, and constructing, and from all reading except that of travels and biographies, of novels and newspapers. Wherefore, we beseech clergymen, when they desire a furlough, not to talk about their throats or stomachs, but to say boldly that they want rest, because rest is a good thing in itself.—*New York Tribune.*

INDIFFERENCE TO PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Many persons who hold what are called "liberal" views of religion treat the matter of attendance upon church services with great indifference, and do not think it worth while to go out on Sunday unless they can hear a preacher of distinguished ability. They misapprehend totally the real purpose and usefulness of meetings for worship. Nobody has attained to such a degree of spiritual strength that he can afford to depend on individual resources for religious life and growth while he has an opportunity for fellowship and co-operation with other men in spiritual activities. A system of thought that accepts and nourishes the individualism as sometimes wholesome and helpful may be another or another, but it is not Christian, nor is it adapted to produce any high development of human character. Anything more narrow, unlovely, crude, and selfish than the type of manhood or womanhood which this individualism produces, when left to work unhindered by its legitimate results, the world has not often seen. A religion that does not prompt a man to try to save others will never save him. Intellectual entertainment is not the proper object of preaching, nor of religious services of any kind. No permanent, vital, productive religious association can be maintained by people who go to church for such a reason. The Lord never sent more than some half-dozen men into the world at any one time, with such endowment of genius and of attractive address as would be necessary for a preacher who should be required to sustain a church by his preaching. As it is necessary that there should be many more than half-a-dozen churches in the world, it follows that there must be some other way of sustaining them besides the work of a preacher possessing extraordinary powers. Besides, we doubt whether the people who will do nothing themselves, and who must be carried along by the attraction of genius in the pulpit or in the singers' gallery, are really worth the trouble which is taken for them. There is no cheap way of being religious; no method of true spiritual culture without toil and self-sacrifice; no legerdemain by which one can lay hold of valuable possessions in this realm of life without earning them, any more than in other departments of human activity. Men who are led by views which they esteem broad and liberal to omit from their children's education the ideas of duty which depend for their force and sanction upon a conviction of our responsibility to God, should be prepared to see in these children the natural result of their philosophy of life, a complete indifference to every law and claim but that of self-gratification.—*Liberal Christian, N.Y.*

MR. BEECHER'S WEEK-NIGHT ADDRESSES.

One of Mr. Beecher's recent "Lecture Room Talks" was devoted to the consideration of a letter from one of his "stated hearers," which, as he remarked, contained as many of the thorns and spines of theology as could well be put into the compass of a letter. The manner in which Mr. Beecher dealt with it so remarkably illustrated his "aptness to teach," that we think a few extracts from the report of the address given in the *New York Christian Union* (Mr. Beecher's new paper), will not be without interest to many on this side of the water. The writer of the letter defined his experience of prayer thus:—

I daily pray to be guided aright; I try to maintain that meek and humble spirit that is willing to receive counsel or rebuke from others around me; I try to use all my faculties for the purpose of finding out what is right in order to do it; and when I have thus prayed and been counselled, I do the best I know how, and then am at peace, whatever results may ensue.

Referring to this, Mr. Beecher said:—This is not the best form of experience. It is certainly not the typical form. It is not necessary to determine at what point one stands between the lowest and the highest forms. The highest form of typical experience is not reached, as I understand it, except in spots and gleams. The ideal Christian character, as set forth in the New Testament, is a character in which all parts of the mind—the reason, the affections, the sensibilities, and the imagination—are vivified and exalted, not only, but in which the whole life is inspired by the higher faculties. And then there is a perfect exaltation. And out of this perfect exaltation comes forth peace; and not only peace, but power. For I believe in those higher moods of Christian development. I believe there is in the world the possibility of healing the sick. I believe there is the possibility of controlling natural forces for beneficent purposes, I should not be surprised to see a dispensation, yet, of what men call miracles. I should not be surprised to see powers of higher good growing out of sanctified natures. But, this being the highest ideal, the actual experience of men range far down. . . . I remember when prayer was to me very much what I suppose it would be to eat cobs. I never ate any; but of all dry things, saying my prayers used to be the driest. To be sure, I had a merry time of it, when I was a boy, and I used to get into bed, and my

mother or sister heard me say my prayers and hymns, because they were interlarded with various snickerings and pinchings (for we—brother Charles and I—had a liturgy of our own, that was never written in a book); but after I became older, and had got over the prayers of my childhood, and had begun to have a conscience in the matter, saying my prayers used to be a very and matter to me. I had difficult work to sift out what I ought to say, and what I really wanted to say; and I used to find myself praying over things which I had heard my father, and other ministers and deacons, pray, and which were altogether above my experiences, and so were not real to me. I had certain expressions on my tongue, and they would roll out, and my prayers used to be a mosaic of high theology and low experience. And it was only after I had gone through great mental distress and scepticism, and great overthrow inwardly, that I came into a childlike experience in which Jesus Christ seemed to me inexpressibly condescending and gentle, and in which I believed that He loved me on just the same principle that a great, kind-hearted woman has compassion on a little bound-girl that she meets in some friend's house, and that everybody snubs. The child's father and mother are dead, and nobody likes her, and she is poor and ignorant, and is bound at the house where this lady goes to visit, and where everybody scolds and cuffs her. The lady, when she sees how the girl is treated, determines that she will do something for her. The mistress says that she is a little minx—very likely she is; and that she lies as fast as she can talk—very likely she does. But the worse she is, the more she needs; and this great-hearted woman sees it, and feels it; and she loves the child on account of its badness, if I may so say; and she knows that the medicine which she wants is that which comes from laying one heart upon another.

Will you tell me (says the letter-writer), and others like me, whether you think we have "a vital union to Christ as very God?"

Yes, I do. But I do not say that a person who has a vital union to Christ as very God, has a conscious vital union to Him. I say of every daisy that is trying to blossom in the fields to-day, "It will never become a flower till it is vitalised by a union with the sun, and it will not come out of its little root-self, its stem-self, or its bud-self, until the sun has entered its sweet little bosom and opened it." The flower is the child of the sun; and I hold that no person is truly a Christian, though he may be religious, until he is brought into vital relations of faith and love with the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Father revealed and made known to us. The man may not be conscious of it, but that is the fact. And the true definition of Christianity is, the soul drawn by the Divine Spirit into such communion with God that its life is vitalised and brought into harmony with the life of God in Christ Jesus.

If the Creator of all things and the God of the Old Testament and the Allah of Mahomet, are one and the same, I can understand how it is that "in every nation he that feareth God and worketh in righteousness is accepted of him." But I do not understand clearly how this is properly or intelligibly expressed by calling it a "vital union of the soul to Jesus Christ as very God."

I suppose that all bodily effects, all effects of the lower animal passions, are caused, or are provided for in the material globe; that all our affections may be excited by causes which are provided for in human society, and that moral intuitions are derived by the action of the Divine Mind on ours; that action I believe to be universal as the shining of the sun. God's Spirit is striving with every man in all nations. Whenever the heart of any man specialises that striving by yielding to it, going toward Divine nature with all his heart, then it becomes a special and effectual seeking of Him.

Miscellaneous News.

SEIZURE OF ARMS AT CORK.—On Thursday evening the Cork police discovered forty breech-loading rifles and bayonets of approved construction and in capital condition, together with a bag containing 1,300 cartridges, in the room of a man named Adams. Though the lodger himself escaped, the owner of the house was arrested. Other visits have been paid to the houses of Fenians, but no more arms have been discovered.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. Lee Steere Steere was on Thursday elected M.P. for West Surrey, in the room of the late Mr. John Ivatt Briscoe. Mr. Steere, who was the only candidate in the field, is a Conservative. The Hon. George Charles Brodric, who contested Woodstock at the last general election in the Liberal interest, has declined to come forward in the same interest for the vacancy in Mid-Surrey. Sir Richard Bagdall, the Conservative candidate, has begun an active canvass. Notice has been given that the petition against the return of Mr. Gwynne, Holford for Brecon is to be withdrawn.

THE EXPEDITION TO AD DR. LIVINGSTONE.—A letter in a Dublin paper announces the failure of an African exploring expedition, originally set on foot there at the time of the reported murder of Dr. Livingstone by the Johanna men. The leader of the expedition, Mr. Henry Faulkner, writes from the Murchison Cataract on the 2nd of June, 1869, to the effect that three out of the five who composed the exploring party have died, and that the two survivors, Mr. Norman and himself, are unable to proceed, as they have no engineer for the little steamer which they took out with them, and which

was specially designed for the inland navigation of East Africa.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.—The town council of Liverpool, following the example set in Birmingham, Manchester, and Sheffield, have applied to the Education Department of the Privy Council requesting that a school board may forthwith be formed within the borough of Liverpool in pursuance of the 12th section of the Elementary Education Act. "Observer" writes to the *Daily News*:—"The education question is, I fear, far from settled. I write from one of many towns with 5,000 inhabitants, which apparently will be very little affected, if at all, by the new Act. We have a Grammar School with an income of some 1,500*l.* per annum—a very good school, but considered of little use to the town. There is also a National School (endowed) for Church Sunday-school children only—an average school, but not public. There is also another, a British School, open to all, where since 1834 very large numbers have received an unsectarian education. Besides being endowed, the town is wealthy, yet is, like others, not disposed to support the public school. As is the case in the next town also, the majority of the people are Dissenters, but the wealth is mostly in the hands of the supporters of the Establishment, and they have little sympathy with any but Church schools. Free and undenominational education thus get insufficient support in many districts; while the sectarian schools flourish, and the Government has also given them a lift. If the people decline denominational education, they may grow up in ignorance still." It is considered probable that Finsbury will have to return five members to the Metropolitan School Board, and it is stated that the following gentlemen have been influentially invited to allow themselves to be put in nomination:—Sir Francis Lytton and Mr. Hugh Owen, of Islington; Mr. Alexander Rivington, of Clerkenwell; Mr. McCullagh Torrens, M.P., and Dr. Birkett, of Bloomsbury.

Cleanings.

The Liverpool Town Council has determined to prohibit betting in the public streets.

At the sale of Count Lagrange's sporting stud last week, the famous horse *Gladiator* realised the high price of 5,800 guineas.

An affected singer at a Dublin theatre was told by a wag in the gallery to "come out from behind his nose and sing his song like other people."

Fond mother (with a son of a very open countenance): He's a pretty good boy, but he don't take to his letters. Old friend: Well, he oughter, for his mouth is like the slit of a post-office box.

The election of Lord Mayor of London for the year 1870-71, in succession to Alderman Bealey, will take place on the 29th inst., at the Guildhall. Mr. Dakin is the senior alderman below the chair, and will probably be elected.

The "foot and mouth" disease has spread throughout Dorset and Somerset, and fresh cases from all parts of the two counties being daily reported, the authorities contemplate the closing of all the cattle fairs and markets.

While the King of Burmah and others are making great efforts to propagate Buddhism, it is being deposed in Japan by the authorities, in favour of the more ancient national religion of Shintoism. The Buddhist idols are to be broken up.

The *Civil Service Gazette* states that from Oct. 1 the new post card will come into force—one half-penny postage. It is a very neat and nicely designed missive, with an impressed Queen's head, and will no doubt contribute greatly to public convenience.

Josh Billings writes that "Philosophers all agree that the milk is put into the kokernut, and then the hole is neatly plugged up; but who the feller is who duz it, the philosophers are honest enough, for a wonder, to admit they can't tell."

People should mind how they express themselves at public dinners. We read, the other day, that the builder of a church now in course of erection in South London, when the toast of his health was given, rather enigmatically replied that he was "more fitted for the scaffold than for public speaking."

A farmer's wife, in speaking to a lady of the smartness, aptness, and intelligence of her son, a lad six years old, said:—"He can read fluently, repeat the whole catechism, and weed onions as well as his father." "Yes, mother," added the young hopeful, "and yesterday I licked Ned Rawson, threw the cat into the well, and stole old Hickley's ginlet."

THE LIBRARY OF STRASBOURG.—This building, just destroyed by the bombs and shells launched by the Badeners, contained no less than 150,000 volumes. Amongst them were a large number of precious manuscripts, forming an inestimable collection of documents relative to the history of the Reformation, which were highly valued by the erudite. Amongst the treasures there preserved was the MS. of Herrada de Landsparg, abess of Saint Odile, entitled "Hortus Deliciarum," which dated from the twelfth century, and the miniature of which furnished the most useful information to the history of art and costumes; a "Beceuil de Prères" of the eighth and ninth centuries, on vellum, in letters of gold and silver; a "Missal," with the arms of Louis XI.; the collections of the "Constitutions de Strasbourg"; and the poem of the "Guerre de Troie," in 60,000 verses, by Conrad de Wurzburg.

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

LEIGHTON—MARPLES.—Sept. 1, at Oxton-road Congregational Church, Birkenhead, by the Rev. F. Barnes, B.A., Edward Leighton, Commander of the S.S. Belgian, son of the Rev. E. Leighton, of Hornsey Rise, London, N., to Margaret Anne, second daughter of David Marples, of Liverpool.

EVANS—DAVIES.—Sept. 1, at Grove street Chapel, Liverpool, by the Rev. R. Davies, of Merton, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. W. Rees, D.D., Michael I. Evans, Esq., to Annie, eldest daughter of David Davies, Esq., 51, Catherine-street, Liverpool.

DEATH.

PETERS.—Sept. 13, at Watford, Herts, Grace Emma, sister of the Rev. T. Peters, aged thirty-one.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 37, for the week ending Wednesday, Sept. 7.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£35,161,990	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,981,500
		Gold Coins & Bullion	20,161,990
	£35,161,990		£35,161,990

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£12,453,861
Reserve	3,683,773	Weight annuity	19,412,018
Public Deposits	8,110,514	Notes	11,951,155
Other Deposits	19,315,451	Gold & Silver Coins	631,679
Reserve Day and other	869,957		
Bills	£44,451,728		£41,455,728

Sept. 8, 1870

FRANK M. T. Deputy Chief

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Youthful Infirmitie:—With symptoms scarcely perceptible at first, which this restorative medicine would radically remove, the young become prematurely enervated and debilitated. They lose alike their looks, energy, and confidence. The general cause of this melancholy state is a disordered stomach or deranged liver, with Holloway's Pills will regulate. By improving digestion, and purifying the blood, they work wonders. They act so kindly, yet so certainly, upon every organ necessary for healthy digestion, that the nervous system soon recovers and the wanted good spirits speedily return with strength, vivacity, and vigour. The most delicate may take Holloway's Pills. They cause no violent effect upon the system, and graciously accomplish their end without much restriction in diet or pleasure.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Sept. 12.

We had a moderate supply of English wheat and liberal arrivals from abroad. The market to day has been extremely depressed, and prices unsettled. English wheat ruled 2s below the prices of Monday last. New wheat made 4s to 5s, for red, and 5s, to 5s, for white. The decline in foreign wheat was 1s per qr. Flour was 1s per sack lower. Barley being scarce was unchanged in value. Peas were dull. Barley made previous prices. Indian corn was rather more inquired after, at last week's decline. Of oats the supply on board ship is not so large, and prices have declined 1d. per qr. since this day week, and many of the cargoes are being landed. Cargoes on the coast meet little demand, at last week's quotations.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Best and Kent, red	45 47	35 37
Ditto new	45 47	35 37
White	49 50	35 39
" new	49 50	35 39
Foreign red	47 49	37 39
" white	49 51	37 39
BARLEY—		
English malting	30 34	36 38
Oatmeal	34 42	
Distilling	35 38	
Foreign	31 34	
MALT—		
Pale	— —	
Oatmeal	— —	
Brown	49 55	
BEANS—		
Flora	40 42	
Harrow	41 46	
Small	— —	
Egyptian	38 40	
PEAS—		
Grey	35 37	
Maple	35 39	
White	35 39	
Boilers	35 39	
Foreign, boilers	37 39	
RYE	36 38	
OATS—		
English feed	21 23	
potato	25 27	
Scotch feed	— —	
potato	— —	
Irish black	19 21	
white	19 23	
Foreign feed	12 23	
FLOUR—		
Town made	48 51	
Country Marks	38 39	
Norfolk & Norfolk	33 35	

BREAD, London, Saturday, Sept. 10.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheat Bread, per tbs, loaf, 8d. to 8½d.; Household Bread, 7d. to 7½d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Sept. 10.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 12,009 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 15,310; in 1868, 6,285; in 1867, 12,144; and in 1866, 16,983 head. Owing to the detention of the boats by the tempestuous weather of the last few days, there were but scanty supplies of foreign stock on sale at this morning's market. This is not in any way to be attributed to the blockade of the German ports, which up to this time has not interfered materially with the trade; on the contrary, the shipments are understood to have been on a liberal scale, and further considerable arrivals are looked for to-day or tomorrow. Meantime, prices of all kinds of meat have risen temporarily, and at the market this morning unexpectedly high rates were demanded. From our own grazing districts the arrivals have been good. The general quality of the beasts on sale was inferior; but choice beef, being scarce, commanded very full prices, and some choice Scotch and Hereford heifers realised 6s. per tbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 1,750 short-horns, &c.; from other parts of England about 600 of various breeds; from Scotland about 95, and from Ireland about 100 oxen. The number of sheep in the pens was fully up to the average; and good downs and half-breds have realised 6s. to 6s. 2d. per tbs. Calves have been dull, and there has not been much demand for pigs.

Per tbs. to sink the Offal.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.		
Inf. coarse beasts	3	8 to 4	6	Prime Southdowns	5	10 to 6	2
Second quality	4	8 to 5	0	Lambs	0	0 to 0	0
Prime large oxen	5	2 to 5	8	Lge. coarse calves	3	6 to 4	6
Prime 8 to 12, &c.	5	10 to 6	0	Prime small	5	0 to 6	0
Coarse inf. sheep	3	10 to 4	2	Large hogs	4	4 to 5	2
Second quality	4	4 to 4	10	Neatam. porkers	5	6 to 6	0
Pr. coarse woolled	5	0 to 5	8				

Suckling calves, 20s. to 25s., and quarter-old store pigs, 20s. to 25s., each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Sept. 12.—Limited supplies of meat have been on sale. The trade has been firmer, and prices have ruled as under.

Per lbs. by the carcass.					
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.
Inferior beef .	3	4	to	3	6
Middling ditto .	3	8	to	4	0
Prime large do.	4	8	to	5	0
Do. small do.	4	10	to	5	2
Large Pork .	4	0	to	4	8
Small pork .	5	0	to	5	4
Inf. mutton .	4	0	to	4	4
Middling ditto .	4	8	to	5	0
Prime ditto .	5	2	to	5	6
Veal . . .	5	0	to	5	4
Lamb . . .	5	8	to	5	8

PROVISIONS, Monday, Sept. 12.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 2,720 firkins butter, and 2,035 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 22,010 packages butter, and 247 bales bacon. The Irish butter market was very inactive, and the business transacted very limited at a decline of about 2s. per cwt. Foreign sold steadily at about previous rates. Bacon in the early part of the week sold slowly, but towards the close a reduction of 2s. to 4s. per cwt. was submitted to, which induced buying. Lard dull at a decline of 2s. to 3s. per cwt.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Sept. 10.—A very large quantity of Pines, Peaches, Nectarines, and early sorts of pears are now off red, and very low prices have to be taken to effect clearance. Hot-house grapes are also supplied in excess of the demand. Potato trade very heavy, and prices from 5s. to 1½s. per ton lower. Amongst flowers we have Balsams, Pelargoniums, single and double Astors, French and German Dahlias, Lilies, Oleanders, Tritonias, &c.

BROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Sept. 12.—Our market is active, transactions being mostly confined to the new growth, which are well taken up on arrival, and show a marked improvement in quality on the early parcels received. Our plantations progress favourably, and should the present weather continue, the growth will be fully equal to recent estimates. Continental accounts are satisfactory as regards the progress of the crops. Latest New York advices report a very slow market, the business being of a retail character. The accounts of the new crop are very conflicting; but there seems little doubt that the yield will prove considerably below that of last year. Wheat, 3s. 5s., 3s. 1s., to 1s. 1s.; Mid and East Kent, 4s. 0s., 5s. 4s. to 7s. 0s.; Sussex, 3s. 0s., 3s. 1s., to 3s. 1s.; Farnham and country, 4s. 10s., 5s. 4s., to 6s. 1s.; Olds 1s. 0s., 1s. 1s., to 1s. 1s.

POTATOES.—BROMFORD AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday Sept. 12.—These markets have been fairly supplied with potatoes. The trade has been steady at our quotations. English shaws 70s. to 80s. per ton; Regents, 70s. to 120s. per ton; Kidneys, 70s. to 12s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Sept. 12.—New English cloverseed has appeared, and the first sample being of a very fine quality commanded a high price. Foreign red samples were held at quite as much money. In white qualities nothing passing to quite accurately. New white mustard seed was taken off to a fair extent, at previous values. New English rapeseed was saleable at full rates for sowing. Red trifolium still commands high rates, being scarce and wanted. New winter tares were more plentiful and lower to sell. Canaryseed was quite as dear, and in fair request.

WOOL, Monday, Sept. 12.—The wool market has been without feature of importance. More disposition to enter into transactions has been noticed, and all descriptions have been steady in value. However, business, as yet, has not been of an important nature.

OIL, Monday, Sept. 12.—There has been a slow demand for linseed oil, and rape has been restricted. Coconut has been steady. Other oils have been in limited request.

TALLOW, Monday, Sept. 12.—The market has been firm. Y.O., on the spot, 4s. 9d. to 4s. per cwt., old; 4s. 6d. per cwt., new. Town Tallow 4s. 9d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Sept. 12.—Market firm at last day's rates. Framwellgate Walwood, 16s. 6d.; Huttons ditto, 16s.; Huttons Leons ditto, 16s. 8d.; Huttons Braddys ditto, 17s. 9d.; Huttons Russell's ditto, 18s. 9d.; Haswell ditto, 19s.; Hartlepool (original) ditto, 19s.; ditto, ditto, 18s.; Hawthorn ditto, 16s.; Hough Hall ditto, 18s.; Kellie South ditto, 19s.; Turnhall ditto, 16s. 3d.; Eden Main, 16s. 6d.; Hartley's, 16s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 43; ships at sea, 60.

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CONGREGATIONAL UNION of ENGLAND and WALES.

The 51st AUTUMNAL MEETING of the Congregational Union of England and Wales will be held at PLYMOUTH on MONDAY, 10th October next, and three following days. The following Programme has been adopted, subject to variation:—

MONDAY EVENING.

The Annual Sermon, by the Rev. R. D. Wilson, London.

TUESDAY.

MORNING SESSION.—Chairman's Address, Rev. J. C. Harrison, London; Address on Practical Religion, Rev. H. Simon, London; Paper on the Religious Life as affected by the leading forms of thought, &c., of the day, Rev. J. Hutcheson, Ashton-under-Lyne.

EVENING SESSION.—An Address (it is expected) will be delivered by Pasteur de Fays, Brussels, on the state of religion on the Continent as affected by recent and impending changes.

WEDNESDAY.

Prayer Meeting. Special Subject of Prayer—The state of the country in regard to religion.

MORNING SESSION.—The Missionary Work of the Congregational Churches. Paper by Rev. J. A. Macfadyen, M.A., Manchester.

SECTIONAL MEETINGS:—

1. On Worship. Papers by the Rev. J. Curwen on Music in Worship; and by the Rev. J. G. Rogers, on Liturgical Forms.
2. On the Position of Congregationalism in Village Districts. Papers by Rev. T. W. Davids, Colchester, and Rev. W. M. Paul, Romsey.
3. On the Ministry. Paper by Rev. Dr. Stoughton.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Sermon to Children by Rev. John Kennedy, M.A., Stepney. Sermon at Devonport.

Public Meeting for the Exposition and Enforcement of Free Church Principles.

THURSDAY.

MORNING.—Prayer Meeting. Special subject of prayer—The state of other countries in regard to religion, with particular reference to the Continent of Europe.

Paper on the relation of the State to Religious Teaching in its bearing on the problem of National Education, and kindred questions. By the Rev. F. Bouley Johnstone.

Report on the question of a Sustentation Fund.

EVENING.—A Conversation.

ALEXANDER HANNAY, Secretary.

18, South-street, Finsbury, Sept. 13th, 1870.

BAPTIST UNION of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND.

The AUTUMNAL SESSION will be held in St. ANDREW'S STREET CHAPEL, CAMBRIDGE, on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, September 21 and 22, Rev. WILLIAM ROBINSON, Chairman.

Applications for accommodation to be made to either of the Local Secretaries not later than September 7th.

Mr. W. S. ALDIS, M.A., St. Andrew's-street, } Local
Rev. J. P. CAMPBELL, Zion House, } Secretaries
Mr. JOHN E. FOSTER, B.A., Serpents terrace, }
Mr. JAMES NOTTER, Beech House, }

REGISTRATION.— BOROUGH of HACKNEY.

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN, that FRANCIS HENRY BACON, Esq., Barrister-at-law, having been appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of England to revise the LIST of VOTERS for the BOROUGH of HACKNEY, will hold his Court for that purpose as follows:—

For the Lists relating to the Parish of SAINT JOHN at HACKNEY, in the NEW TOWN HALL, HACKNEY, situate within the said Borough, on FRIDAY, the 23rd day of September instant, commencing at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

For the Lists relating to the Parish of SAINT LEONARD, SHORNDITCH, in the NEW TOWN HALL, SHORNDITCH, situate within the said Borough, on FRIDAY, the 23rd day of September instant, commencing at one o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

For the Lists relating to the Parish of SAINT MATTHEW, BETHNAL-GREEN, in the NEW TOWN HALL, BETHNAL-GREEN, situate within the said Borough, on SATURDAY, the 24th day of September instant, commencing at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

The Returning Officer and Overseers of the respective Parishes within the said Borough are required to attend the Court of the Revising Barrister, and at the opening of the said Court to deliver to the Revising Barrister the List of Voters made by them respectively, and also all the original Notices of Claims and Objections received by them, and to produce all Rate-Books, Documents, Papers, and Writings, in their possession, custody, or power, touching any matter necessary for Revising the respective Lists of Voters.

HENRY CHILD,

Returning Officer for the said Borough

Dated this 8th day of September, 1870.
Downs-road, Clapton, and No. 2, Paul's Bakehouse-court, Doctors' Commons, City.

NEW BARNET.—The Services in connexion with the ORDINATION of the Rev. GEORGE TWENTYMAN, B.D., will take place on SEPTEMBER 21st, commencing at Three and at Seven o'clock. Revs. Dr. W. L. Alexander, Dr. Falding, J. B. Wilson, Thos. Hill, and others, will take part.

THE DANIEL DEFOE MONUMENT, just erected in BUNHILL FIELDS by the BOYS and GIRLS of ENGLAND, will be UNCOVERED on FRIDAY NEXT, September 16, at Twelve o'clock precisely, by CHARLES RYED, Esq., M.P. No tickets required.

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The Central Committee request that Local Committees will REMIT each WEDNESDAY, to Messrs. Coutts and Co., the AMOUNT COLLECTED during the preceding week, advertising the names of subscribers in the local newspapers, and sending a copy of the same to the Secretary. It is also urgently requested that they will have all materials of the same sort packed together, a list of contents written on each bale, and an invoice of the same sent to the Secretary every Saturday. The stores to be retained by Local Committees until orders are given about them.

In future subscriptions of less than 2s. will not be advertised separately.

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NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

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